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TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY?

Slaying of American reopens debate on ransoms

By LARA JAKES
AND ELLEN KNICKMEYER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — By rejecting demands for a nine-digit payment to save kidnapped American journalist James Foley, the United States upheld a policy choice that some European

and Arab governments have long found too wrenching to make themselves: ruling out ransom to rescue any citizen held captive by militant organizations, in hopes the tough stand will make Americans safer from kidnapping and attacks by extremists.

SEE PAY ON PAGE 5

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

Syrian haven is key to heart of Islamic State

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the heart of President Barack Obama's quandary over the Islamic State militants is their haven in Syria. The president might continue helping

Iraqi forces try to reverse the group's land grabs in northern Iraq by providing more arms and American military advisers and by using U.S. warplanes to support Iraqi ground operations. On Friday the Pentagon announced that U.S. warplanes made three more airstrikes against Islamic State

targets near the Mosul Dam, including a machine-gun position that was firing on Iraqi forces.

But what if the militants pull back, even partially, into Syria and regroup, as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Thursday predicted they would, followed by a re-

newed offensive?

"In a sense, you're just sort of back to where you were" before they swept into Iraq, said Robert Ford, a former U.S. ambassador to Syria who quit in February in

SEE OBAMA ON PAGE 4

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Team tests new helmet, but can it really help in preventing concussions?

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VIDEO GAMES

Remaster elevates 'Last of Us' from beautiful to stunning

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ENTERTAINMENT

Afghan-American actor shares odyssey in his new memoir

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Military: GAO says swap with Taliban for Bergdahl was illegal » Page 3

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"So there's no doubt in my mind that women in our country are the rising gender, and we need to pay attention to that."

—Vice Adm. Ted Carter, Naval Academy superintendent, noting the growing role of women in the Navy

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2. Journalist James Foley, abducted in Syria, beheaded by Islamic State
3. US military's return to the Philippines sparks economic hopes
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5. GAO: Pentagon violated law with Bergdahl swap

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MILITARY

US soldier slain in stabbing identified

Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon identified a U.S. soldier stabbed to death in Kabul this week.

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew I. Leggett, of Ruskin, Fla., died Wednesday after he was stabbed near the Kabul airport, Afghan police and government spokesmen said.

The incident occurred about 10:30 a.m. on Bemaroo Road, district police chief Najeebullah

Samsur said. The assailant was arrested.

Leggett, who was on guard duty at the time, was stabbed in the neck, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry said.

Also on Friday, the NATO-led military coalition in Afghanistan announced the death of a servicemember from a "non-battle injury" in the country's east. A news release from the International Security Assistance Force did not provide details or identify

the person. Coalition members typically announce the deaths of their own troops.

Leggett's death is the 39th this year of a U.S. troop in Afghanistan, according to a count by The Associated Press. The ISAF servicemember's death is the 53rd this year for the coalition.

While casualty rates for ISAF servicemembers have fallen in recent years as Afghan security forces assume more of the fighting against insurgents, ISAF ser-

vicemembers still work closely with Afghan forces and patrol their own bases.

Roughly 44,000 international troops remain in Afghanistan — nearly 30,000 of them Americans — as the coalition prepares to end its combat mission this year.

NATO plans call for a residual training-and-advicing force to remain after 2014, pending agreements with the government.

news@stripes.com

Decision delayed in Iraq desertion case

BY JONATHAN DREW
The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A defense attorney said Thursday that a Marine accused of deserting his unit a decade ago in Iraq was kept in Lebanon for eight years while he faced a military trial there.

The Marine officer presiding over the hearing for Cpl. Wassef Hassoun adjourned the proceeding for at least a week to allow defense attorneys to translate Lebanese documents they say support his case.

The hearing officer, Lt. Col. Scott W. Martin, eventually will recommend whether Hassoun should face a military trial on charges including desertion as part of the Article 32 process, the military equivalent of a grand jury. A Marine general will have the final say on whether to try Hassoun.

Martin has given the defense at least until Aug. 27 to translate the documents, and no new court date has been set.

Defense attorney Haytham Faraj said Hassoun, 34, was kept in Lebanon for years for court proceedings triggered by U.S. accusations that he had deserted. Faraj said documents show Hassoun was tried and convicted by a Lebanese military court on charges that mirror the U.S. desertion charges. He said the Lebanese government tried Hassoun

at the behest of the U.S. but did not elaborate.

Military prosecutors say Hassoun's whereabouts were unknown for years until he contacted U.S. officials in 2013.

Faraj said that as soon as the court proceedings in Lebanon ended, Hassoun contacted U.S. officials saying: "I need to get back to the U.S. The Lebanese have been holding me."

The case began in June of 2004 when Hassoun disappeared from a base in Fallujah in western Iraq. About a week later, he appeared in a photo purportedly taken by insurgents. Hassoun was blindfolded and had a sword poised above his head.

Hassoun, who was born in Lebanon and is a naturalized American citizen, turned up days later at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon and said he had been kidnapped by Islamic extremists and was held for 19 days. A group called the National Islamic Resistance/1920 Revolution Brigade claimed responsibility for his capture.

"It strains logic that he would flee and then turn himself in to U.S. authorities weeks later," Faraj said.

But the military doubted his story and he was brought back to the U.S. He was allowed to visit relatives in Utah in December 2004 when he disappeared again. A hearing, called an Article 32 proceeding, was canceled in January 2005. His commanders then



The JACKSONVILLE (N.C.) DAILY NEWS/AP
Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun is escorted to his article 32 hearing Thursday at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

classified him as a deserter.

Faraj said little about the purported 2004 kidnapping other than Hassoun was able to get away from his captors by using unique skills he developed as a servicemember and translator familiar with local Iraqis.

Prosecutors argue that there is overwhelming circumstantial evidence that Hassoun was unhappy and left the Marines in Iraq and later fled to Lebanon in 2004. They gave the hearing officer statements by witnesses who said Hassoun was unhappy with his deployment and how the U.S. was interrogating Iraqis. Witnesses told investigators that Hassoun said he was unwilling to shoot back at Iraqis and would shoot over their heads instead.

Pentagon: Chinese jet's intercept 'dangerous'

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Friday accused a Chinese fighter jet of conducting a "dangerous intercept" of a U.S. Navy aircraft off the coast of China in international airspace.

The Pentagon press secretary, Rear Adm. John Kirby, said Washington protested to the Chinese military through diplomatic channels, calling the fighter pilot's actions "unsafe and unprofessional."

Kirby said it happened Aug. 19. He said the maneuvering by the Chinese jet posed a risk to the safety of the U.S. air crew, was "inconsistent with customary international law," and complicates efforts to improve military-to-military relations, which are often strained.

Kirby said the Chinese jet made several close passes by the Navy P-8 Poseidon plane, coming within 30 feet of it at one point. He said the Chinese jet did a "barrel roll" maneuver over the top of the Poseidon at one point and also passed across the nose of the Navy plane, exposing the belly of the fighter in a way apparently designed to show that it was armed.

Kirby said it happened about 135 miles east of China's Hainan Island.

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STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

Investigators say Bergdahl prisoner swap violated law

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon broke the law when it swapped Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, a prisoner in Afghanistan for five years, for five Taliban leaders, congressional investigators said Thursday.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office said the Defense Department failed to notify the relevant congressional committees at least 30 days in advance of the exchange — a clear violation of the law — and used \$988,400 of a wartime account to make the transfer. The GAO also said the Pentagon's use of funds that hadn't been expressly appropriated violated the Antideficiency Act.

"In our view, the meaning of the [law] is clear and unambiguous," the GAO wrote to nine Republican senators, including Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and various committees. "Section 8111 prohibits the use of funds appropriated or otherwise made available" in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014, to transfer any individual detained at Guantanamo Bay to the custody or control of a foreign entity except in accordance" with the law.

The GAO said the relevant committees received phone calls from May 31 — the day of the transfer — to June 1, with written notification coming on June 2.

Five senior Taliban were released from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo in exchange for Bergdahl, who had disappeared from his post in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. The five Taliban are to remain in Qatar for a year.

Spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby defended the Pentagon's actions, saying that as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel stated in his congressional testimony earlier this year, the DOD "acted lawfully in the operation to recover Sgt. Bergdahl, a judgment that was supported by the Justice Department."

"The administration had a fleeting opportunity to protect the life of a U.S. servicemember held

captive and in danger for almost five years," Kirby added. "Under these exceptional circumstances, the administration determined that it was necessary and appropriate to forgo 30 days' notice of the transfer in order to obtain Sgt. Bergdahl's safe return."

Lawmakers, especially Republicans, were angry with President Barack Obama and members of the administration for failing to notify them about the swap. Some in Congress have said Bergdahl was a deserter and the United States gave up too much for his freedom. Several lawmakers have cited intelligence suggesting the high-level Taliban officials could return to the Afghanistan battlefield.

The nonpartisan GAO said the DOD failed to notify the relevant lawmakers at least 30 days in advance of the exchange and used \$988,400 of a wartime account to make the transfer.

Congress in the dark, saying concern about Bergdahl's health and safety required speedy action.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a member of the Intelligence Committee, said it was "completely disingenuous" for the administration to suggest that notifying Congress might have compromised the transfer because dozens of administration officials knew well in advance. "The president's decision is part of a disturbing pattern where he unilaterally decides that he does not have to comply with provisions of laws with which he disagrees," Collins said in a statement Thursday.



JOHN STONE, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

USS Saratoga on final voyage

The decommissioned aircraft carrier USS Saratoga is towed on her final voyage Thursday from Naval Station Newport in Rhode Island to the Esco Marine ship recycling plant in Brownsville, Texas, where she will be scrapped. The ship arrived in Newport on Aug. 7, 1998, after spending four years in storage following her decommissioning in 1994.

US, Bangladesh relief exercise ends

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The largest humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise held annually in Bangladesh, attended by more than 150 civil and military authorities, wound up Thursday. This was the fifth engagement between Bangladesh's government and U.S. Army Pacific intended to promote emergency preparedness.

The four-day Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange was held at numerous locations throughout Dhaka, including the Fire Service and Civil Defence Training Academy and the airfield at Tejgon. This year's training specifically addressed readiness for earthquake response and recovery in Dhaka.

"The geographical location and topographical features of Bangladesh have made us vulnerable for all kinds of natural disasters," said Mesbah ul Alam, secretary of the Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, in a statement released by USARPAC. "Cyclones, flood ... and drought are natural disasters that could happen. Historical instances in Bangladesh and adjoining areas indicate that Bangladesh is vulnerable to earthquake damage."

A large-scale earthquake in



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Col. Mohammad Tawhid-Ul-Islam, of the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, delivers a presentation Monday on the Dhaka City Earthquake Contingency Response Plan Monday at the Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise & Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dhaka, the country's capital and most populous city, could bring down an estimated 70,000 buildings, trapping thousands of people, the Army statement said.

"The mind cannot even begin to fathom a disaster of this magni-

tude, but fathom it we must," Dan Mozena, U.S. ambassador to Bangladesh, said in the Army statement. "We simply must think the unthinkable, imagine the unimaginable, prepare for the disaster of all disasters."

Although the exercise was led by the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division and USARPAC, it was supported by many civilian institutions, such as the Bangladesh Department of Disaster Management, Bangladesh Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the World Food Programme.

The Pacific Resilience exercises are USARPAC's primary method of sharing with other countries best practices and lessons learned concerning disaster relief.

Pacific Resilience exercises have been held in six countries since 2000, with plans next year for Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia, the Lower Mekong Basin and Papua New Guinea, the Army statement said.

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Navy Adm. McRaven confirmed as chancellor of University of Texas System



McRaven

By PAUL J. WEBER
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Navy Adm. William McRaven formalized his transition from a top U.S. military commander to academic leader Thursday, officially accepting the job as chancellor of the University of Texas System.

The head of U.S. Special Operations Command will start in January and

make \$1.2 million annually — nearly a half-million dollars more than his predecessor — according to system officials.

McRaven, 58, has been credited with spearheading the operation that led to the death of Osama bin Laden in a raid on his compound in Pakistan 2011. He grew up in San Antonio, where UT has a large academic campus and health center, and has no professional academic experience.

The four-star admiral was also at the helm when Army Delta forces secured the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from the Taliban in May as part of an exchange for five Afghan detainees from the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center.

Wearing a suit instead of his highly decorated Naval uniform, McRaven told regents that great universities must adapt to change.

"I have seen the change from my

current position in the military. The demographics are changing. The technology is changing. The funding model is changing," McRaven said. "We must not only keep up with the pace of change — we must lead the change."

Regents selected McRaven as the finalist for the job last month but could not officially hire him for 21 days. He is set to retire from the military this month after 37 years.

MIDEAST

Attack leads Sunnis to pull out of talks

By SINAN SALAHEEDIN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sunni lawmakers pulled out of talks on forming a new Iraqi government after militants attacked a Sunni mosque in a volatile province outside Baghdad during Friday prayers, killing at least 64 people.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was carried out by Shiite militiamen or the Islamic State extremist group, which has been advancing into the ethnically and communally mixed Diyala province and has been known to kill fellow Sunni Muslims who refuse to submit to its leadership.

But Sunni lawmakers pointed to powerful Shiite militias and two major parliamentary blocs pulled out of talks on forming a new Cabinet, setting up a major challenge for prime minister-designate Haider al-Abadi, a Shiite who is struggling to form an inclusive government that can confront the militants.

The blocs affiliated with Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri and Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlak demanded that outgoing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the main Shiite parliamentary bloc hand over the perpetrators within 48 hours and compensate the families of victims "if they want the political process and the new government to see the light of day."

The joint statement blamed the attack on "militias" in an apparent reference to Shiite armed groups allied with the govern-

ment. Sunni lawmakers could not immediately be reached for further comment.

An army officer and a police officer said the attack on the Mushab bin Omair Mosque in Imam Waisi village, some 75 miles northeast of Baghdad, began with a suicide bombing near the entrance, after which gunmen poured in and opened fire on the worshippers.

Officials in Imam Waisi said Iraqi security forces and Shiite militiamen raced to the scene of the attack to reinforce security but stumbled upon bombs planted by the militants, which allowed the attackers to flee.

Four Shiite militiamen were killed and 13 wounded by the blasts.

At least 64 people were killed in the attack and more than 60 wounded. Al-Maliki has called for an investigation.

The officials said Islamic State fighters have been trying to convince two prominent Sunni tribes in the area — the Oal-Waisi and al-Jabour — to join them, but that they have thus far refused.

Virtually all suicide bombings in Iraq are believed to have been carried out by Sunni militants, but Shiite fighters used the tactic in Lebanon during that country's civil war. In the chaotic aftermath of a major attack it is often not immediately clear how it was carried out or who was responsible.

Two medical officials confirmed the casualty figures.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

Since early this year, Iraq has been facing an onslaught by the extremist Islamic State group and allied Sunni militants. The crisis has worsened since June, when the group seized Iraq's second largest city of Mosul, in the north.

In Diyala, Islamic State fighters have clashed with Kurdish forces guarding disputed territory claimed by the Kurdish regional government in the north. The extremist group pushed Kurdish forces out of the town of Juhla earlier this month after heavy fighting.

The Islamic State group has also clashed with Shiite militiamen and security forces loyal to the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

At the height of Iraq's sectarian bloodletting in 2006-07, the province was among the country's most lethal areas.

If the attack proves to have been carried out by Shiite militiamen it would deal a major blow to al-Abadi's efforts to reach out to the country's Sunni minority, whose grievances are seen as fueling the insurgency.

Al-Abadi has until Sept. 10 to submit a list of Cabinet members to parliament for approval, but such deadlines have often passed without action because of political wrangling.

On Friday, Iraq's top Shiite cleric again called upon national leaders to settle their differences in a "realistic and doable" manner and swiftly form a new government to confront the Sunni

insurgency.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said the next government should be made up of candidates who care about "the country's future and its citizens" regardless of their ethnic and religious affiliations.

Al-Sistani warned that politicians' demands and conditions could derail the forming of the new government.

The reclusive cleric's remarks were relayed by his representative, Abdul-Mahdi al-Karbalaei, during Friday prayers in the Shiite holy city of Karbala.

Al-Karbalaei also called for urgent aid to be airlifted to residents of a small Shiite town which has been besieged by Sunni militants in northern Iraq.

About 15,000 Shiite Turkmen in the town of Amiri have been under a tight siege and are running out of food and medical supplies. The town is located about 105 miles north of Baghdad.

The United States launched airstrikes this month to support Iraqi and Kurdish forces looking to reclaim territory seized by the Islamic State group.

U.S. Central Command said Friday that it conducted three new airstrikes around the Mosul Dam, where clashes with militants continue nearly a week after Iraq and Kurdish forces retook the nuclear storage facility with U.S. air support.

Since Aug. 8, the U.S. has launched a total of 93 airstrikes, of which 60 were near the Mosul Dam, CENTCOM said.

Scant details concerning air campaign

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America has returned to war, of a sort, in Iraq with airstrikes that have intensified recently against Islamic State militants. But details about the execution of this limited campaign, which so far includes no reported U.S. ground combat, are thin. Here is some information about the mission, which began Aug. 8.

What U.S. forces are involved?
The specifics are hard to pin down in part because, many of the contributors work behind the scenes. We do know that the U.S. has about 750 military personnel in Iraq, and that the 100 or more have worked out of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad since before this crisis began.

None of the 750 are engaged in ground combat, but that does not mean they are at risk.

Among the 750 are about 160 at what the military calls "joint operation centers" — one in Baghdad and another in Irbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, near the center of the latest fighting. The other 160 military personnel are coordinating with Iraqi and Kurdish military officials to support their efforts to defend Irbil, including the U.S. Consulate there, and surrounding territory.

Who is carrying out the airstrikes?

The only portion of the air campaign that has been discussed publicly in detail is the work being done by a range of Navy aircraft launching off the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf area. These include F-18F Super Hornets, which carried out the first strikes authorized by President Barack Obama. Also flying are EA-6B Prowlers.

What about the Air Force?
The Air Force has said little about its combat role, although it is widely known inside the military that its F-15E attack planes as well as B-1 bombers and armed drones have participated in the campaign. The Air Force also flies aerial refueling missions.

Where are the Air Force planes flying from?

U.S. Central Command will not say what bases are being used. It cites "host nation sensitivities," which is a diplomatic way of saying the U.S. government is according to the host nation's states that insist their involvement in U.S. offensive military operations not be publicly acknowledged.

How many targets have been bombed in Iraq so far?

CENTCOM said Wednesday that it has conducted 93 airstrikes since Aug. 8. That includes 14 on Wednesday against a range of Islamic State militant targets in the vicinity of a Tigris River dam just north of Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq. Of the 84 strikes, 51 have been in support of Iraqi forces near the dam.

What else is being struck?
U.S. warplanes have hit a wide range of militant targets, including artillery, armored personnel carriers, light trucks, mortar positions and checkpoints.

Obama: Syria's importance weighs on decision for next step

FROM FRONT PAGE

disillusionment over Obama's unwillingness to arm moderate Syrian rebels.

"I don't see how you can contain the Islamic State over the medium term if you don't address their base of operations in Syria," he said in an interview before an intensified round of U.S. airstrikes this week helped Kuneitra and Idlib, where Hagel called the Taurus River dam near Mosul that had fallen under control of Islamic State militants.

On the other hand, Obama has been leery of getting drawn into the Syrian civil war, which began in 2011.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday that the Islamic State militants can be contained only so long, and that at some point their Syrian sanctuary will have to be dealt with.

"Can they be defeated without addressing that part of their organization which resides in Syria? The answer is no," he told a Pentagon audience in Doha, where Hagel called the group a dire threat that requires an international, not just an American, response.

"That [sanctuary] will have to be addressed on both sides of what is essentially at this point a nonexistent border," Dempsey added, referring to the militants' dismantlement of a U.S. defense perimeter at the border with Iraq. "And that will come when we have a coalition in the region that takes on the task of defeating ISIS over time," he said, using an alternate acronym for the group. "ISIS will only truly be defeated when it's rejected by the 20 million disenfranchised Sunni that happen to reside between Damascus and Baghdad."

More immediately perhaps, Obama faces

choices in Iraq, whose sectarian divisions and political dysfunction created the opening that allowed Islamic State fighters to sweep across northern Iraq in June almost unopposed. They captured U.S.-supplied weapons that Iraqi forces left behind when they fled without a fight.

Among his options:

- Sending more troops to Baghdad to strengthen security for the U.S. Embassy, as requested by the State Department. Officials said the number under consideration is fewer than 300. They would be in addition to the several hundred U.S. troops already in the capital to help protect U.S. facilities and personnel.

- Speeding up the arming of Iraqi and Kurdish forces. The administration has been supplying Iraqi government forces with Hellfire missiles, small arms and ammunition, but critics say the pace has been too slow. The administration has been reluctant to openly arm the Kurds, since their militia, known as the peshmarga, is a semi-autonomous force seen in Baghdad as a threat to central government authority.

- Increasing the number and expanding the role of the dozens of U.S. military advisers who are in Baghdad and the Kurdish capital of Irbil to coordinate with Iraqi forces. They could be given more direct roles in assisting the Iraqis on the ground by embedding with Iraqi or Kurdish units in the field or scouting targets for U.S. airstrikes.

- Committing U.S. ground troops in Iraq. Obama has said repeatedly he would not do this. "We're not the Iraqi military. We're not carrying the Iraqi flag," Obama said Monday. "I am the commander in chief of the United

States armed forces, and Iraq is going to have to ultimately provide for its own security."

- Extending the Iraq air campaign to Islamic State targets in Syria. Stretches of eastern Syria are a sanctuary for the group, also known by the acronyms ISIL or ISIS. The U.S. has warplanes available in the Middle East and Europe that could vastly increase the number and frequency of strikes in eastern Syria if Obama chose.

Hagel on Thursday appeared to leave the door open to extending U.S. strikes into Syria, although other officials said there was no immediate plan for such action.

"We're looking at all options," Hagel said when asked whether airstrikes inside Syria were a possibility.

This is hardly the first time Obama has faced options for military action in Syria.

The White House on Wednesday disclosed that Obama authorized a covert mission this summer to rescue American hostages in Syria, including journalist James Foley. The mission failed because the hostages had been moved before the rescuers arrived, officials said. On Tuesday, the militants released a video showing the beheading of Foley and threatened to kill a second hostage if U.S. airstrikes in Iraq continued.

A year ago, Obama put on hold a plan to attack Syria for its alleged use of chemical weapons, arguing that he would not act until Congress had a chance to vote on the use of military force. The vote never came, however, because the government of President Bashar Assad accepted a U.S.-Russian brokered deal to destroy Syria's chemical arsenal.

MIDEAST

Pay: US official says giving in to demands for ransom helps fund terrorists

FROM FRONT PAGE

Foley's beheading by the Islamic State extremist group intensified a debate within the Obama administration and with American allies abroad about whether to pay ransoms to al-Qaida and other organizations, at the risk of encouraging more abductions and funding militancy.

For al-Qaida and some other militant bands, ransoms paid to free kidnapped Europeans during the past decade have surpassed donations from private supporters as a source of funding, according to the United States and Britain.

The British government, like the U.S., adheres to a longstanding policy against paying ransoms to extremists.

Foley's Islamic State captors had demanded \$132.5 million from his parents and political concessions from Washington. Neither obliged, authorities say.

The Islamic State also demanded a \$132.5 million ransom each for two other American hostages the militants are holding, according to a person close to the situation who spoke late Thursday on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the information by name. The demands to the families of the hostages came only once, late last year.

Foley, 40, a freelance journalist from New Hampshire, was killed within the past week inside Syria, where he had been held since his disappearance there in November 2012. Extremists revealed his death in a video released Tuesday showing his beheading.

Extremists said they killed Foley in retaliation for what by Thursday were 90 U.S. airstrikes since Aug. 8 targeting Islamic State positions in northern Iraq. But the ransom demands began late last year, even before the Islamic State, one of the world's most financially prosperous extremist groups, had begun its brutal march across much of western and northern Iraq.

Whether or not it was their primary motive in killing the freelance reporter, the Islamic State militants — already savvy self-promoters on Twitter and in slickly produced videos — since then have moved squarely to the front of the U.S. agenda and international attention, said Matthew Levitt, a counterterrorism expert at the Washington Institute think tank.

It's "the kind of coverage you click to read," Levitt said. "From their perspective, this has been a tremendous success."

A senior Obama administration



GLOBALPOST/AP

James Foley of Rochester, N.H., a freelance contributor for GlobalPost, is seen in an undated image in Benghazi, Libya.

official said Thursday the Islamic State had made a "range of requests" from the U.S. for Foley's release, including changes in American policy and posture in the Mideast.

At the State Department, deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said the militancy — which controls a swath of land across northern Syria and Iraq — has collected millions of dollars in ransoms so far this year alone.

"We do not make concessions to terrorists," Harf told reporters. "We do not pay ransoms."

"The United States government believes very strongly that paying ransom to terrorists gives them a tool in the form of financing that helps them propagate what they're doing," she said. "And so we believe very strongly that we don't do that, for that reason."

The issue of payments by American families or U.S. corporations is now under debate within the Obama administration, according to a U.S. official familiar with the conversations, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss them by name.

The USA Patriot Act prohibits any payment or assistance to terror groups that could boost their support. The families of three Americans held by a rebel group in Colombia for five years, for example, were repeatedly advised against sending even medication and sneakers to the hostages to avoid potentially breaking the law.

But prosecution in those types of cases is rare.

"I never saw, in my time as an FBI agent, where the U.S. government threatened to prosecute a family for paying a ransom," said Clinton Van Zandt, the FBI's

former chief hostage negotiator.

He said government-paid ransoms help create "a growing cottage industry in kidnap ransoms."

"You may get that person back that time, but what you've done is put a price tag on the head of every American overseas," he said. "And you've advertised that we pay to get Americans back."

European governments, in particular, cite more domestic pressure than felt in the U.S. to free kidnapped nationals, even by ransoms. Qatar, a small Persian Gulf country that often seeks a regional and international role as a mediator, also has interceded in paying or helping to arrange payment for Western governments, U.S. and British officials say.



JACQUES BRINON/AP

Released French hostage Nicolas Henin arrives April 20 at the Villacoublay military airbase outside Paris. A French freelance journalist, Henin said he spent seven months with James Foley, from October 2013 to April 2014.

In January, the U.S. and Britain secured a U.N. Security Council resolution appealing to governments not to pay ransom to terror groups. The Group of Eight, a bloc of some of the world's most developed economies, made the same pledge a year ago, also under U.S. and British pressure.

The Treasury Department has estimated at least \$140 million worth of ransoms have been paid to al-Qaida and other terror groups in Africa and the Mideast since 2004.

France, the country most frequently accused of paying ran-

soms, has denied doing so, as have Germany, Italy, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. All are accused by security experts, diplomats and others of having paid or helped arrange ransoms.

Despite its insistence that it does not make concessions to terrorists, the U.S. did just that earlier this year in securing the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from the Taliban, critics say. In exchange for Bergdahl, the Obama administration released Taliban prisoners from the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including some that critics called among the most hardened terrorists.

Rather than pay ransoms, the United States often tries to rescue its hostages with covert military teams trained to raid extremist camps. That was how the three hostages in Colombia were freed in 2008 in a joint operation with Colombian spies and U.S. intelligence.

And a secret operation was launched in early July to rescue Foley and other U.S. hostages being held by the Islamic State in Syria. U.S. special forces engaged in a firefight with the Islamic State, and killed several militants, but did not find any American hostages at the unspecified location.

At least three Americans are still being held in Syria. Two of them are believed to have been kidnapped by the Islamic State group. The third, freelance journalist Austin Tice, disappeared in Syria in August 2012 and is believed to be in the custody of Syrian government forces.



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MILITARY

Academy chief: No double standard for Navy athletes

By BRIAN WITTE
The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The new superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy said he does not now believe there is “a cultural issue” in Navy sports with the kind of lax oversight of athletes that is being investigated at the U.S. Air Force Academy, but if there is “we’re going to take care of it.”

Vice Adm. Ted Carter spoke to reporters Thursday for the first time since he arrived as the new superintendent in July. Carter said he spoke with the superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy after it launched an investigation this month into its athletic department and demanded greater accountability from coaches due to reports of athlete misconduct, including allegations of sexual abuse. Air Force Academy superintendent Lt. Gen. Michael Johnson told coaches this month to take a bigger role in preventing sexual assaults.

The Navy had its own high-profile case last year involving sexual assault allegations against three football players. Charges against

‘My sense is that I don’t have a cultural issue here, even given the headlines that were in the paper last year and, trust me, I’m not coming in here blind.’

Vice Adm. Ted Carter
U.S. Naval Academy superintendent

two were dropped, and a third man was acquitted in March.

“My sense is that I don’t have a cultural issue here, even given the headlines that were in the paper last year and, trust me, I’m not coming in here blind. If there is an issue, we’re going to take care of it,” Carter said.

Congress and the Pentagon are closely monitoring sexual assaults at the Air Force, Army and Navy academies. A Department of Defense report in January said a culture of disrespect permeates the schools and contributes to sexual harassment and assaults. The report identified sports and club teams as an area where the academies needed to expand training.

Carter said he spoke to faculty and staff of Navy’s sports teams

on Thursday.

“There has to be an understanding,” Carter said. “There’s no double standard here at the Naval Academy.”

The superintendent, who entered the academy just after female students were first admitted in 1976, also noted the growing role of women in the Navy. This year’s incoming class is about 25 percent female — the highest in the academy’s history — compared to less than 10 percent when Carter first became a midshipman as a member of the class of 1981. Carter said he has observed big changes in acceptance of women in the Navy during his career.

“There’s a brother-sister mentality in those squadrons,” Carter said, referring to Navy person-



BRIAN WITTE/AP

Vice Adm. Ted Carter, the new superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, talks to reporters Thursday in his office in Annapolis, Md.

nel he observed while in foreign ports. “That was not that way 35 years ago. It wasn’t that way, at least not my observation, when I saw the young, female midshipmen here.”

The superintendent also said he has noticed during marathons he has run that the best athletes representing middle America are typically women instead of men, and he noted that there is a higher percentage of women at Ivy League schools.

“So there’s no doubt in my mind that women in our country are the rising gender, and we need to pay attention to that,” Carter said.

“We need to figure out how do we get not just what the numbers are but how do we get the right woman to want to come and serve their country and come to an institution like the United States Naval Academy, and I know they’re out there, so that’s something we’re going to continue to work on,” he said.

Suspect faces extradition in slaying of Marine’s wife

By JAMES BARRAGAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The man accused of killing a Marine’s wife and dumping her body in a 140-foot mine shaft waived his extradition proceedings in Alaska and will return to California to face charges, prosecutors said Thursday.

Christopher Brandon Lee, 24, was arrested Sunday night in Anchorage on suspicion of killing Erin Corwin, 19, the day before crews found her body after search in the mine shaft.

San Bernardino County prosecutors have since filed charges against Lee of murder and kidnapping by lying in wait. The latter could carry the death penalty if Lee is convicted.

Corwin’s body was found last Saturday after a seven-week search in isolated, rugged terrain on government-owned land.



COURTESY OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/AP

Erin Corwin, left, poses with her husband, Cpl. Jonathan Wayne Corwin.

Investigators believe Corwin and Lee, who were next-door neighbors at a military base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., were having an affair. Lee may have been worried that Corwin was pregnant and would tell his wife, according to investigators.

Lee was arrested on suspicion of murder Sunday night in Alaska,

where he had moved with his daughter and wife after being discharged from the Marines in July.

According to an arrest warrant posted on the district attorney’s website, 22-caliber cartridge casings found near Corwin’s body match cartridge casings found in Lee’s Jeep and his apartment on base.

The nature of the injuries and details of the lightning strike haven’t been released.

In August 2012, a lightning strike injured 10 New Jersey National Guard soldiers who were training at Fort Drum, 70 miles north of Syracuse.

From The Associated Press

DOD keeps wary eye on Iran in Strait of Hormuz

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — While Iran’s military has toned down its rhetoric about military capabilities and exercises, it continues a low-profile buildup of weapons in and near the Strait of Hormuz, according to a classified Pentagon assessment.

“Iran’s military strategy is defensive” and designed to “deter an attack, survive an initial strike, retaliate against an aggressor and force a diplomatic solution” while avoiding major concessions, said the unclassified executive summary of a congressionally mandated Pentagon report submitted to lawmakers on July 7.

Since the August 2013 election of President Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian government “has adjusted some of its tactics” to achieve core objectives such as preserving the rule of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to the summary, which was obtained by Bloomberg News.

“Of note, Tehran’s strategic messaging about its military capabilities through the mass media has been less strident since Rouhani took over,” it said. “Wide-spread publicity of major military exercises, previously the norm, has been minimal” in state-run media such as the Mehr and Islamic Republic news agencies.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel wrote in his cover letter

transmitting the classified report that it contains an analysis of Iran’s conventional, unconventional and nuclear weapons capabilities “and intelligence gaps the Department currently has” with Iran.

The deadline for negotiations between Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States — plus Germany over curtailing its disputed nuclear program in exchange for relaxing economic sanctions has been extended to Nov. 24.

Kenneth Katzman, a Middle East analyst for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, said in an email that the Pentagon’s previous Iran reports “have been consistently suspicious and assuming the worst in Iran’s intentions and capabilities.”

“This assessment is more nuanced, giving Iran some credit for adjusting its approach so as to minimize international suspicions,” he said.

Katzman said he was struck by the Pentagon’s characterization of Iran’s military doctrine as defensive. “I have never seen DOD or any U.S. agency come down so sharply on” whether Iran is “defensive or aggressive.”

“This definitely has a much different and more benign tone than the preceding reports did,” Katzman said.

Six soldiers hurt by lightning at Fort Drum

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Army officials say six soldiers are recovering after lightning struck during a field exercise at Fort Drum in northern New York.

A Fort Drum spokeswoman

said the soldiers were training on a range when lightning hit the area around 9:15 p.m. Thursday.

Officials said six soldiers were taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries not considered life-threatening. Spokeswoman Julie Halpin said four returned to duty as of Friday morning, while two remain hospitalized.

NATION



DAMIAN DOVRAGANES/AP

A Los Angeles police officer wears an on-body camera during a demonstration for media in Los Angeles.

Shooting prompts calls for 'body cams'

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The fatal police shooting of the unarmed black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Mo., is prompting calls for more officers to wear so-called body cameras: simple, lapel-mounted gadgets that capture video footage of law enforcement's interactions with the public. Proponents say the devices add a new level of accountability to police work.

This is a technology that has a very real potential to serve as a check and balance on police power," said Jay Stanley, senior policy analyst at the American Civil Liberties Union.

The case supporters make it simple: Cops and criminal suspects alike are less likely to misbehave if they know they're being recorded. And there's some evidence supporting it. In a recent Cambridge University study, the police department in Rialto, Calif. — a city of about 100,000 — saw an 89 percent decline in the number of complaints against officers in a yearlong trial using the cameras.

The number of times the police used force against suspects also declined. After the trial, the cameras became mandatory for the department's roughly 100 officers.

Gaining popularity

Rialto isn't unique. Across the U.S. and in England, Australia, Brazil and elsewhere, a growing number of departments are implementing the cameras, in addition to — or instead of — the dashboard-mounted cameras that are already widely used in police cars. Some one in six U.S. police departments now use body cameras in some form, according to ACLU attorney Scott Greenwood.

The Los Angeles Police Department is testing the cameras and the New York City Police Department said this month that the department is exploring the feasibility of using the devices. The city's public advocate, Letitia

James, has called for the cameras as a check on police misconduct following the death of a black man placed in a choke hold by a white police officer last month in Staten Island.

Complications

Cameras come with complications, however. It's unclear whether a police body camera would have altered the situation. A bystander recorded Eric Garner shouting, "I can't breathe!" as police officer Daniel Pantaleo placed him in a choke hold. Garner later died. The city medical examiner ruled the death a homicide, and the case is going to a grand jury.

Although body cameras provide a record that courts and police can use to reconstruct events, there's no guarantee the footage will provide easy answers. There are privacy concerns for all those being recorded, whether it's police officers, crime suspects, victims or innocent bystanders.

There are also legal and procedural questions: Who gets access to the recordings? And what happens when an officer's device mysteriously malfunctions or gets turned off at an inopportune moment? Experts including the ACLU's Stanley caution that with the gadgets must also come well-thought-out policies, including guidelines that spell out how long recordings are kept and what to do in situations where footage goes missing.

"We live in a time when most people's reaction to any problem is, 'Clearly, if we have an app or some sort of a digital device, that

will solve the problem,'" said Neil Richards, professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis. Richards said the notion that body cameras might solve problems of police misconduct is "naïve."

"The problem is that we can't fix deep-seated social problems with a \$10 gadget or with a million-dollar tank," he said.

Types of cameras

The body cameras currently used in police work vary. They include devices that can be worn as glasses, including Google Glass, the company's \$1,500 Internet-connected eyewear. But more common are the small, rectangular lapel cameras that attach to an officer's uniform and record audio and video with the touch of a button.

Taser International Inc., which says it is the largest provider of body-mounted cameras to U.S. law enforcement agencies, has seen sales of its wearable cameras increase sharply in the past year. Bookings for sales of the cameras, which cost \$400 to \$700 each, grew from between \$1 million and \$2 million in early 2013 to \$11.4 million in the April-June period, said Taser CEO Rick Smith.

Taser's cameras are constantly recording, but the footage is deleted every 30 seconds unless an officer presses record. In that case, the 30 seconds before the officer hit record are kept in addition to everything else that's subsequently captured.

The recordings are stored on Taser's Evidence.com online server. Smith said the site is to the cameras what iTunes is to iPods.

Brian Smith, a former police officer who is now assistant professor at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, expects that eventually every police department will use the cameras. He compares them to the now-common dashboard cameras used in police cars, which had their own supporters and skeptics when they were first introduced.

Tensions, protests lessen in Ferguson

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
AND JIM SALTER
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — The streets of Ferguson were peaceful for another night, as protests and tensions were subsiding in the St. Louis suburb where unrest had erupted after a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old.

Gov. Jay Nixon also ordered the Missouri National Guard, which arrived Monday, to begin withdrawing as flare-ups have been easing. Police have made only a handful of arrests in the protest area during the past two nights. "I feel we're making progress," Nixon told KMOX-AM, noting that a state of emergency remained in effect in Ferguson.

About 100 people gathered Thursday evening, walking in laps near the spot where Michael Brown was shot on Aug. 9. Some were in organized groups, such as clergy members. Police said there had been seven arrests, mainly for failure to disperse. That compares with six on Wednesday night and 47 the previous night — providing hope among law enforcement leaders that tensions were beginning to wane.

Several protesters were still caught Thursday night at St. Louis County prosecutor Bob McCulloch to be removed from the scene. Some question McCulloch's ability to be unbiased since his father, mother and other relatives

worked for St. Louis police. His father was killed while responding to a call involving a black suspect.

McCulloch reiterated Thursday that he has no intentions of stepping aside and urged Nixon to decide once and for all if he will act on the calls for his ouster.

A grand jury began considering evidence this week to determine whether the officer who shot Brown, Darren Wilson, should be charged. Magee said there was no timeline for the process, but it could take weeks.

Federal authorities have also launched an independent investigation into Brown's death.

Authorities said before Thursday night they had arrested at least 163 people in the protest area where demonstrations have been held since Brown's death. Data provided Thursday by St. Louis County showed that while the majority of those arrested are Missouri residents, just seven live in Ferguson. The vast majority, 128 people, were cited for failure to disperse. Twenty-one face burglary-related charges.

About 5 miles from where Brown was killed, another fatal police-involved shooting happened this week in St. Louis. Police released video showing a knife-wielding man saying, "Kill me now" as he moved toward two officers. The officers fired six shots each, killing Kijame Powell, 25.



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NATION

Democrats reframe debate on health care

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of the most vulnerable Senate Democrats is standing by his vote for President Barack Obama's health care law, a fresh sign that the unpopular mandate may be losing some of its political punch.

In an ad released this week, two-term Arkansas Sen. Mark Pryor says he voted for a law that prevents insurers from canceling policies if someone gets sick, as he did 18 years ago when he was diagnosed with cancer. That prohibition on ending policies

is one of the more popular elements of the 4-year-old law that Pryor never mentions by its official name — the Affordable Care Act.

"No one should be fighting an insurance company while you're fighting for your life," Pryor says. "That's why I helped pass a law that prevents insurance companies from canceling your policy if you get sick, or deny coverage for pre-existing conditions."

The law, dubbed "Obamacare," remains divisive, vilified by Republicans as big government run amok and a relentless hit on a spurring economy. House Re-

publicans have voted some 50 times to repeal, change or scrap the law, and the GOP is betting Americans' opposition to the law will be a great motivator in November's midterm elections.

The Obama administration insists the law is accomplishing its main goal — providing health care coverage to millions of Americans who lack it, with some 8 million enrolled. In Arkansas, for example, the share of uninsured residents dropped about 10 percentage points — from 22.5 percent in 2013, to 12.4 percent in the middle of this year, according to the Gallup-Healthways Well-

Being Index.

Pryor is locked in a close race with first-term Republican Rep. Tom Cotton in a state that voted overwhelmingly for GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney in 2012 and John McCain in 2008. Despite its Republican leanings, the state does have a Democratic governor.

Mobilizing core voters to go to the polls is crucial in low-turnout midterm elections. Pryor's embrace of the law sends a message to Democrats that a law they like could disappear if he loses his seat, Blendon said.

Republicans need to gain six

seats to secure the majority for the remainder of Obama's term. Arkansas is one of the GOP's top targets.

Campaign ads have reflected the waning of health care as an issue. Commercial from candidates and the party organizations have focused on veterans, bipartisanship and attendance at committee hearings while Republican-leaning outside groups such as Americans for Prosperity, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American Crossroads still use many of their spots to hit Democrats for backing the health care law.

Report: Calif. school district's \$1B iPad effort beset by woes

By HOWARD BLUME
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The ground-breaking effort to provide an iPad to every Los Angeles Unified school, teacher and school administrator was beset by inadequate planning, a lack of transparency and a flawed bidding process, according to a draft of an internal school district report obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

The much-anticipated analysis is drawn from public and closed meetings held over 10 months by a committee chaired by school board member Monica Ratliff. That panel, composed of parents, employee representatives and district officials, heard presentations, posed questions and gathered documents from experts and administrators. Ratliff directed that the report remain confidential until committee members could provide input.

The Times obtained it from sources who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to release it.

The committee review stops short of accusing anyone of wrongdoing, but offers a carefully worded rebuke of the \$1 billion-plus technology effort in the nation's second-largest school system.

■ The initial rules for winning the contract appeared to be tailored to the products of the eventual winners — Apple and Pearson — rather than to demonstrated district needs.

■ Key changes to the bidding rules were made after most of the competition had been eliminated under the original specifications.

■ Past comments or associations with vendors, by top-level district officials, created an appearance of conflict even if no ethics rules were violated.

Last year's iPad rollout at 47 schools suffered a series of setbacks. In one, students at three campuses deleted security filters so they could browse the Internet — prompting officials to prohibit the iPads' use outside of school.

The effort was expected to expand district-wide by the end of 2014, but officials pushed the timetable back and are also testing laptops at the high school level as a possible alternative to iPads for older students.

Many students and teachers have expressed excitement about using the \$768 devices and the opportunities they might offer. The report also supports the goals and potential benefits of the technology push.

the 2008 financial crisis.

One select group of investors is receiving some relief: public pension funds.

Almost \$1 billion of the Bank of America settlement will go to states — California, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland and New York — whose attorneys general were investigating the bank or its Countrywide Financial or Merrill Lynch units. Those state prosecutors have earmarked that money for the retirement funds of teachers, police officers and firefighters.

From The Washington Post



PROVIDED BY KRAFT FOODS/AP

"Bright Spots for Wartime Meals" was a Jell-O recipe book published by General Foods in 1944.

Jell-O can't stop slippery sales slide

By CANDICE CHOI
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jell-O has lost its jiggle and nobody knows how to fix it.

The dessert was invented more than a century ago and helped popularize a delicacy reserved for the rich into a quick, affordable treat. Americans of all ages are familiar with the famous "J-E-L-L-O" jingle and TV ads featuring comedian Bill Cosby. Knocking back Jell-O shots made with alcohol is a college memory for many.

Yet despite its enduring place in pop culture, sales have tumbled 19 percent in the past four years, with alternatives such as Greek yogurt surging in popularity. Executives at Kraft Foods, which owns Jell-O, say they're confident they can revitalize the brand. But their efforts so far have been a disappointment.

After years of marketing sugar-free Jell-O to dieters, for instance, Kraft last year launched an ad

campaign that switched back to playing up the family angle. In one TV spot called "Comb Over," a man with the title hairdo tells his son how Jell-O makes up for life's troubles, like being stuck in traffic. The visual gag is when the child imagines himself going through life with a comb over.

"Kids thought it was hilarious," said Dan O'Leary, senior director of marketing for Kraft desserts.

Unfortunately, it didn't get people in the mood to eat Jell-O. After showing signs of improvement for a couple years, Jell-O sales in the U.S. hit \$932.5 million in 2009, reflecting box mixes and ready-to-eat cups of gelatins and puddings, according to market researcher Euromonitor International. But they're being declining ever since, and by last year, sales had seen a double-digit percentage drop to \$753.8 million.

Part of the problem is that people have become more finicky about what they eat. They're increasingly seeking out foods they

think are natural or wholesome, and Jell-O's bright reds, greens and blues may inadvertently serve as warning signals to moms about the artificial dyes they contain. The second ingredient listed for the Jell-O gelatin cups is also high-fructose corn syrup, a cheaper sugar substitute that more people are shunning.

Nutrition more broadly is another issue. Jell-O has long positioned itself as a lighter alternative to cakes and pies (as the slogan goes, "There's always room for Jell-O"). But the trend now is toward foods that claim some sort of benefit, such as protein and fiber.

Even for those who have fond memories of eating Jell-O, the problem is just that — it's a treat associated with the past.

"It almost seems childish to cook it now," said Ted McGrath, 34, a painter in New York City who thinks of Jell-O as being in the same category as Twinkies or fast food.

NATION

Boston bombing suspect's friend pleads guilty

By DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A college friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev pleaded guilty Thursday to impeding the investigation by removing incriminating evidence from Tsarnaev's dorm room several days after the deadly attack.

Diad Kadyrbayev, 20, admitted in federal court that he removed Tsarnaev's laptop computer and a backpack containing fireworks that had been emptied of their explosive powder from Tsarnaev's room at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

Twin bombs placed near the finish line of the 2013 marathon

killed three people and injured more than 260.

Under a plea agreement, federal prosecutors said they would ask for no more than seven years in prison. The agreement allows his lawyer to argue for a lesser sentence. Kadyrbayev also agreed not to fight deportation after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. District Judge Douglas Woodcock set sentencing for Nov. 18 but did not immediately accept the plea agreement, saying he first wanted to review a report that will be prepared by the probation department.

Kadyrbayev's decision to plead guilty came just two weeks before he was scheduled to go on trial and

a month after his friend and co-conspirator, Azamat Tazhayakov, was convicted of identical charges by a jury.

During Tazhayakov's trial, prosecutors described Kadyrbayev as the leader in the decision to remove the items, but said Tazhayakov agreed with the plan. They say Kadyrbayev was the one who actually threw away the backpack and fireworks, which were later recovered in a landfill.

Kadyrbayev's lawyer, Robert Stahl, said his client made a "terrible error in judgment that he's paying for dearly."

Stahl emphasized that Kadyrbayev — a native of Kazakhstan who came to the U.S. in 2011 on

a student visa — "had absolutely no knowledge" that Tsarnaev and his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, were planning to bomb the marathon and was "shocked and horrified" when he learned they were suspects.

He said Kadyrbayev, who was 19 at the time, "now understands he never should have gone to that dorm room, and he never should have taken any items from that room."

His plea agreement with prosecutors does not make any mention of him agreeing to testify against a third friend who was also charged. Robel Philippos, of Cambridge, is accused of lying to investigators about being present when Kadyrbayev took the items from Tsarnaev's room. Philippos is scheduled to go on trial next month.

Typically, plea agreements describe whether defendants have given substantial assistance to prosecutors and have agreed to testify against co-defendants.

The backpack, fireworks and laptop were taken from Tsarnaev's room hours after the FBI publicly released photographs and videos of Tsarnaev and his brother as suspects in the bombing.

Prosecutors said Kadyrbayev exchanged text messages with Tsarnaev after seeing the photos, and Tsarnaev told him he could go to his dorm room and "take what's there."

Charity stunt goes awry; 4 firefighters shocked

By DYLAN LOVAN

The Associated Press

CAMPBELLVILLE, Ky. — A charity stunt that has grown into a social media phenomenon went terribly wrong for four Kentucky firefighters when a fire truck's ladder got too close to a power line after they dumped water on college students who were taking part in an "ice bucket challenge."

Campbellville police Chief Tim Hazlette said the power line was never touched Thursday morning, but it carried such a high voltage that it was able to energize the ladder truck, shocking the firefighters.

The two in the bucket were at a hospital burn unit early Friday. One was in critical condition and the other was in fair condition, the hospital said. The other firefighters were treated and released.

The firefighters had just taken part in the challenge that helps raise money for ALS research. They dumped water on the Campbellville University's marching band, but most of the students had already left the area and no students were hurt.

Under the name student Julie Smith said she was nearby and spoke to a couple of friends who witnessed the firefighters being shocked and said "they are taking it really hard."

"It's tragic. I feel for all the band members who were still there when it happened, that they had to see that," Smith said. Smith later led a prayer vigil with about 100 people on the campus Thursday night.

Power was knocked out for about an hour to 4,500 customers, including the school, said Natasha Collins, a spokeswoman for Kentucky Utilities, which owns the line.

The ice bucket challenge has been sweeping social media websites. The ALS Association said it has raised more than \$41 million. Police said Capt. Tony Grier,



DYLAN LOVAN/AP

A Campbellville Fire Department truck with the ladder extended remains at the scene where two firefighters were injured during an ice bucket challenge on Thursday in Campbellville, Ky.

41, and Simon A. Quinn, 22, were in the fire truck bucket. Grier, a 16-year veteran of the department, was in critical condition at the University of Louisville Medical Center Burn Unit. Quinn, a part-time firefighter, was listed in fair condition there.

Firefighter Keith Bricken, who has worked with Grier for about three years, said he was a tough firefighter who trained colleagues.

"He's real outgoing. He loves to help in any way he can," Bricken said.

Also injured was Capt. Steve Morris, 37, who has been with the department for 11 years, and Alex Johnson, 28, who has been there three years.

Campbellville University, a private college, is a Christian institution that has about 3,600 students, according to its website. It is about 65 miles south of Louisville.

"A number of our students, of course, the entire marching band, witnessed the event, and so we're concerned about them and the tragedy of this accident," university president Michael Carter told WHAS-TV.

Bad news for bucket challenge

Los Angeles Times

U.S. State Department officials have put a damper on high-ranking officials who might be getting swept up in the ice bucket challenge frenzy currently being tapped to raise money for ALS research.

"High-ranking State Department officials are unfortunately unable to participate in the ice bucket challenge," said spokeswoman Marie Harf at a State Department press briefing Thursday.

"Federal government ethics rules prevent us from using our public offices for private gain, no matter how worthy the cause is," Harf said, adding that, "This is, of course, a worthy cause."

Harf's comments came after reports of a diplomatic cable that was sent to all U.S. missions, which highlighted the

department's global mandate to fight disease. "It is often difficult for us, as concerned citizens, to pick and choose among many worthy charities," the memo read. "It is even more difficult when high-ranking State Department personnel with high-profile positions are asked to participate" in fundraising.

Dan Shapiro, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, was one of the State Department officials who apparently participated in the challenge, though a video of his ice bucket soaking has since been sent to private. Harf said she doesn't expect Shapiro or others to face disciplinary action.

The challenge involves participants dousing themselves (or their friends) with buckets of ice water on video and posting them to social media.

Kidnappers planned to make Amish girls slaves

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN

The Associated Press

FOWLER, N.Y. — A Northern New York couple who kidnapped two Amish sisters from their family farm stand planned to turn them into slaves, but they released the girls after becoming frightened by news reports, an investigator said.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Sgt. Brooks Bigwarfe said Thursday that Nicole Vaisey admitted she and her boyfriend, Stephen Howells Jr., lured the 7-year-old and 12-year-old sisters to their car with an offer to pet a dog, and then Howells shoved them in.

Bigwarfe said she told him they shocked the girls and intended to turn them into slaves, but released them about 24 hours later after hearing news reports of the kidnapping.

District Attorney Mary Rain said the children were sexually abused by the "sexual predators." Fowler Justice Paul Lamson ruled Thursday that there's no reasonable cause to believe Vaisey committed felony kidnapping. He ordered her held without bail.

Howells, who also is jailed, waived his right to a hearing.

Defense attorney Bradford Rieuendeau said Vaisey was Howells' slave. "I believe she's not as culpable as he is," Rieuendeau said.

The girls' kidnappings touched off a massive search in the Amish family's remote farming community. Searchers scoured the community of about 4,000 people, but they were hampered by a lack of photos of the girls.

The Amish typically avoid modern technology, and the family had to work with an artist to produce a sketch of the older girl.

The parents, who have 14 children, did not express anger toward the suspects. The girls' father said Thursday at his farm that they seemed to be doing well.

WORLD

Pentagon warns Russia as convoy rolls into Ukraine

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. warned Russia on Friday to immediately withdraw a humanitarian convoy that entered the country to supply rebel-held territory despite Kiev opposition.

Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said Russia is violating Ukraine's sovereign territory by sending the convoy of at least 130 vehicles to the city of Luhansk and will face harsher economic sanctions and further isolation in the world if it does not withdraw.

Russia had said it could wait no longer to bring food and water to civilians in the eastern Ukraine where Moscow-aligned separatists are waging a war against the Ukrainian government. Kiev and the United States have charged Russia with arming the rebels with tanks, artillery and air defense system, and the incursion of the convoy marked another escalation that could draw Russian forces directly into the fight.

The Ukraine on Friday called the move by Russia a "direct invasion" that would provoke an international response, according to the Associated Press.

"Russia must remove its vehicles from the territory of Ukraine immediately," Kirby said during a press conference at the Pentagon.

Kirby said U.S. intelligence is

still working to determine what was in the convoy vehicles that arrived Luhansk and if it was indeed humanitarian supplies for civilians as Russia claimed.

"We don't have a perfect picture of what's inside those trucks," Kirby said. "It's the unauthorized entry into Ukraine ... which is a violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Earlier this week, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu had promised the United States that his country would not intervene militarily in the Ukraine under the guise of a humanitarian mission, he said.

The United States and Ukraine have been alarmed by the growing number of Russia forces. More than 10,000 heavily equipped troops with armored units, artillery and air defense have massed along Ukraine's eastern border, according to the Pentagon.

NATO said Friday that, since mid-August, it has seen "multiple reports of the direct involvement of including Russian airborne, air defense and special operations forces in eastern Ukraine." It also said Russian artillery support is being used against Ukraine's armed forces and it has seen "transfers of large quantities of advanced weapons, including tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery to separatists."

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SEERGE GERTS/AP

Ukrainian border guards look at the first truck in a Russian aid convoy as it passes the border post at Izvaryne, eastern Ukraine, on Friday.

German man evicted for squeaky swing sex prop

BERLIN — A German court says a landlady was within her rights to evict a man for persistently using a squeaky swing set in his apartment late at night as a sex prop.

The court in Munich said Friday the unidentified man installed the "very old" chain swing set in his apartment in 2012 and regularly disturbed his neighbors

with "sexual, athletic and squeaking noises" late into the night, causing multiple complaints.

It noted his rental agreement included a clause to be quiet between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

In upholding the landlady's decision to evict him, the court focused on the tenant's use of the swing set, saying its use late at night "would no longer correspond to normal rental use, and must therefore not be tolerated as socially acceptable."

From The Associated Press



ADEL HANA/AP

Palestinians look Friday at a crater made after a house was hit by an Israeli airstrike in Gaza in the northern Gaza Strip.

Gaza militants kill 18 alleged spies for Israel

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND DANIEL ESTRIN
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza gunmen killed 18 alleged spies for Israel on Friday, including seven who were lined up behind a mosque and shot after midday prayers, in response to Israel's deadly airstrikes against top Hamas military commanders.

Hamas media portrayed the killings as the beginning of a new crackdown, under the rallying cry of "choking the necks of the collaborators." It was the largest number of suspected informers killed by Hamas in a single day since it seized Gaza by force in 2007.

The Al Majd website, which is close to the Hamas security services, said "suspects would now be dealt with 'in the field'" rather than in the courts in order to create deterrence.

Hamas said it would not release the names of those killed because it wanted to protect the reputation of their families. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights said

two of those killed Friday were women. It called for an immediate halt to what it said were "extrajudicial executions."

The killings came a day after an Israeli airstrike on a house in southern Gaza killed three senior military leaders of Hamas. The three had played a key role in expanding Hamas' military capabilities, including building a network of attack tunnels into Israel and smuggling weapons.

Earlier in the week, another strike killed the wife and two children of Mohammed Deif, the shadowy leader of the Hamas military wing. Deif's fate remains unclear.

Friday's events began with the shooting of 11 alleged informants at the Gaza City police headquarters in the morning. Of the 11, two were women, the Palestinian rights center said.

Later in the day, seven people were killed outside the city's downtown al-Qanari mosque as worshippers wrapped up noon prayers. Several dozen people were outside the mosque at the time, said one of the witnesses,

Ayman Sharif, 42.

Another witness said the faces of the seven had been covered. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was afraid for his own safety.

Sharif said masked gunmen lined up seven people against a wall. A piece of paper was affixed above the head of each of them, with his initials and his alleged crime.

Sharif quoted one of the gunmen as saying the seven "had sold their souls to the enemy for a cheap price" and had caused killing and destruction.

The commander of the group then gave the order to the others to open fire with their automatic rifles. He said the bodies were collected by an ambulance and the gunmen left.

In pinpointing the whereabouts of the Hamas commanders, Israel likely relied to some extent on local informers. Israel has maintained a network of informers despite its withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, at times using blackmail or the lure of exit permits to win cooperation.

Nigeria confirms 2 new Ebola cases

The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — Two new cases of Ebola have emerged in Nigeria and, in an alarming development, they are outside the group of caregivers who treated an airline passenger who arrived with Ebola and died, Health Minister Onyebuchi Chukwu said Friday.

Chukwu told reporters in Abuja, the capital, the two are spouses of a man and a woman who had direct contact with Liberian-American Patrick Sawyer, who flew into the country last month with the virus and infected 11 others before he died in July, including the man and female caregivers who both subsequently died of Ebola.

The last two cases bring the total number of confirmed infections in Nigeria, including Sawyer, to 14. Five have died from the illness, five recovered and were discharged from hospital, while another four are being treated in isolation in Lagos, the commercial capital where Sawyer's flight landed.

NATION

Convicts choosing compassion

ZBIGNIEW BZDAR, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Inmate Ralph Pollock reads a book and interacts with a hospice patient at the Chronic Care Unit at Dixon Correctional Center in Dixon, Ill. The prison hosts the state's only hospice program in a prison, where the people giving care to inmates are convicted felons themselves.

Illinois prison hospice offers care, redemption for inmates

By BARBARA BROTMAN
Chicago Tribune

Ralph Pollock, in the ninth year of a 25-year sentence for a drunken driving crash that killed two children, bent forward in his chair, rested the book on the bed in front of him and quietly read to a man lying under a blanket.

Propped up against a pillow, his eyes closed, the man listened as Pollock read from "The Purpose Driven Life."

The man's life is drawing to a close. He no longer speaks, but Pollock understands him nonetheless.

"Just by his squeezing me or looking at me, I know if he's uncomfortable, or if he wants something, or if he's just angry and just doesn't want to put up with things," Pollock said. "I kind of know his moods, just by sitting with him."

Pollock, 55, is a volunteer in the hospice program for prisoners at Dixon Correctional Center, one of only about 20 prison hospices nationwide where the caregivers are inmates.

Patients and caregivers have been convicted of grievous crimes. But the hospice program is based on the belief that everyone deserves compassion as they are dying. The program's supporters say inmates who extend that compassion as volunteers can be transformed. The infirmary where the dying receive hospice



Inmate caregiver Eugene McDaniel, left, works with inmate Lambert Knol. McDaniel is a former police officer serving a 60-year sentence for killing his wife.

care is in the prison's health care unit. The walls are cream-colored cinder block; the rooms have large windows that look out onto the prison grounds. The shelves in the small day room hold Dick Francis novels, a copy of "The Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond" and a 1980 World Book Encyclopedia set.

Pollock has been caring for the same patient for 2½ years. Four days a week, he comes here and reads to his patient, bathes him, helps him to the bathroom.

"I give him a bath practically every time I'm up there, just because it's some kind of activity, gets him out of bed," Pollock said. "Even if he grumbles sometimes, I think, 'Well, I'll wait a little while and talk him into it.'"

Prison officials considered the patient too ill to consent to be interviewed or named, and they declined to reveal his condition. Most patients in hospice care have cancer. Prisoners in hospice are assured that when the time comes, they will not die alone.

Pollock also finds comfort in the hospice, where he has forged a genuine relationship with his patient while also receiving, perhaps, some kind of redemption.

In 2005, Pollock was drunk when he ran a red light near O'Hare International Airport. His pickup truck collided with a van carrying a family returning from vacation. The van burst into flames, killing a 5-year-old boy and his 14-year-old sister.

"I shouldn't have been behind the wheel in 2005 driving drunk," he said. "I know the damage that I've done to that family. And I know that I can't pay that back. But I know that I can do good things with what's left of my life."

Such are the dual benefits of the prison hospice, said Cheryl Price, who helped design the prison program and served as its coordinator for 17 years until she retired at

the end of July.

The inmates who are patients get one-on-one care, "the opportunity in what can be perceived a noncaring environment to latch onto someone whose interest is them and them solely," Price said.

Many inmates receiving hospice care have no family contacts, she said; they have been away too long or their crimes drove their families away. The prison is their family. In hospice, they know a member of that family will be with them to the end.

The prisoners who volunteer can become different men.

"It changes them," Price said. "They find out things about themselves that they never knew. They find out that relationships are important; they find out that caring is important."

Some get a chance to try to make amends for their crimes.

"I think that a lot of us, at least I know myself, that have done such a disastrous deed, we do feel an obligation to want to give back, to want to help," said Eugene McDaniel Jr., 62, a onetime Wheaton police officer who is serving a 60-year sentence for killing his wife.

Most of the inmates who volunteer for the hospice are serving time for murder.

"They would like some method of atonement," Price said, "some way of showing that they are not bad people, that they want to be able to do work that tells them and tells other people, 'I did change; I can be a better person.'"

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OPINION



A woman holds up a pamphlet with guidance on how to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, in Monrovia, Liberia, on Aug. 14.

Global village can lessen epidemics

By BILL MILLER

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The agitating Ebola emergency has captured headlines. There are some who undoubtedly assume that this kind of epidemic is unusual. However, localized epidemic disease has been a part of the biological system of the planet since the origin of life. Pandemics in which the spread of disease can encompass a continent or the world are just as ancient a process.

We humans have an extensive acquaintance with epidemics and pandemics. Many occurred long before the modern era with its current ease of global travel or any concerns about a changing climate. Our written record of epidemics can be traced as far back as the Ten Plagues of Egypt, which devastated livestock and humans. There are extensive and graphic descriptions of the prior pandemic spread of bubonic plague in Europe and Asia in the Middle Ages that occurred in successive waves.

In more recent history, during the First World War in the fall of 1918, influenza ravaged populations worldwide, accounting for an estimated 20 million to 40 million deaths. It moved with astounding speed and at such a pace that more American troops died of influenza than in battle. Although there had been mild outbreaks of influenza in the spring of 1918, few deaths had occurred. However, within a short interval, a new strain of influenza virus emerged and was incredibly lethal, often leading to death within hours of symptoms caused by uncontrollable hemorrhage into the lungs. This pandemic was so sudden and unprecedented, and it exerted its worldwide effect with such fury, a state of panic and chaos was experienced by many communities across the globe.

Fatalities were not confined to the very young, elderly and infirm, as is the typical distribution for influenza. Instead, it disproportionately afflicted young adults and the previously healthy. This reversed the normal pattern of mortality so that its impact on the infrastructure of society had critical socioeconomic reverberations.

Now Ebola has raised global alarm. Although the spread of Ebola does not appear to follow the same mode of transmission as influenza, there are certain commonalities among any of the diseases that are currently considered to have the potential

for worldwide spread. Both influenza and Ebola are zoonoses, just like the viruses that spread HIV, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) or West Nile Virus. A zoonosis is an infection spread from one species to another, from animals to man or from man to another animal. The majority of human pathogens are zoonotic and nearly all the emerging diseases are caused by zoonotic pathogens.

Our human activities are crucial to its incidence and spread. We interact with other animals by hunting across a broad range and consuming a great variety of other species for food. We are eager travelers and keep and travel with diverse pets. Modern technology has dramatically changed our speed and ability to do so. Consequently, we may inadvertently introduce a new pest to a pristine environment. We, as humans, are not merely the victims of disease but an important carrier of an immense amount of microbial life and may inadvertently introduce novel pathogens through our actions.

As a result, relatively obscure diseases are now being granted a larger global range. Once a new disease emerges outside of its prior range, our cultural traditions can have a crucial impact on its dissemination. Societies can react idiosyncratically to vaccination programs, have long-standing burial rituals, or access to vastly different health resources. Stigmatization of the ill, traditional health practices in some cultures, handling of wastes and secretions, perceptions of individual rights, or acceptance of an imperative to quarantine can widely differ between cultures.

Despite such disparities, the current Ebola outbreak renders a unique opportunity. Disease recognizes no boundaries of class distinction, ethnicity, language, race, or religion. If properly understood, this tragic epidemic is a gateway to a crucial international dialogue. A global action plan should be swiftly formulated and implemented based on our experiences with this current tragedy.

What might such actions be?

■ There are existing health agencies with crucial expertise that can be strengthened, such as the World Health Organization, the National Institutes of Health or Centers for Disease Control. Heightened worldwide coordination of similar agencies is imperative and funding must be significantly

increased.

■ A dedicated team of recognized international experts should be formed as a ready response team in preparation for the next outbreak since there will always be another.

■ Resources and research must be devoted to studying the patterns of communicable disease, improving assessment tools. The search for vaccines and other cures must be markedly accelerated.

■ New methods to restrict the populations of mosquitoes, ticks, other insect vectors or rodents must be extensively implemented on a global scale. These inexpensive measures would have an immediate and consequential impact on worldwide disease burden.

■ A global effort to educate leaders and populations about infectious disease control and precautions must be started immediately. Overcoming cultural impediments will take time and patient instruction.

How might that money come from and how much such cooperation be organized?

Our worldwide discussions of climate change offer one model. Expensive responses to that peril are urged but it is uncertain whether any such measures will realistically affect climate trends. However, no matter the cause of a changing climate or its time line, its ultimate effect on our own human experience will be most dramatically experienced by a changing pattern of infectious disease. Even now, there are currently observable examples in a notable shift in distribution of malaria, West Nile Virus, and the spread of chikungunya beyond previous endemic regions.

Zoonotic diseases are ever occurring. Some are relatively harmless; yet, others may intermittently and unpredictably spread with such ferocity that unprepared and inadequate health systems will surely be overwhelmed. A prompt coordinated redirection of a significant proportion of our limited resources for climate remediation toward infectious disease research and interdiction is our best response to this Ebola experience. It is now time for all to rethink their place in the global village and embrace reciprocal stewardship through common need.

Bill Miller has been a physician in academic and private practice for more than 30 years. He is the author of "The Microcosm Within: Pollution and Extinction in the Hologenome." The opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.

OPINION

Should the US send in ground troops to end Islamic State terror?



Yes: Employ Thatcher's advice and attack now

By WHITT FLORA

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

President Barack Obama is now reaping the whirlwind for his feckless and sometimes politically motivated strategy of leading from behind in the Mideast, North Africa and Eastern Europe.

The good news is that his decision to use U.S. air power to protect the Yazidi people from death and torture by Islamic State fanatics has allowed Kurdish and Iraqi soldiers to recapture the critical Mosul Dam and sent the Islamist terrorists reeling backward.

Yet the president in a recent press conference reiterated his vow that airstrikes are part of a "limited action" and that no U.S. combat troops will be put on the ground.

Yet U.S. Special Forces — by anyone's reckoning our crack combat troops — already are on the ground, advising the Kurds and coordinating the precision strikes by our F-16 and F-18 jets on the armored vehicles Islamic State fighters captured from Iraqi forces fleeing Mosul in July.

The success of the airstrikes demonstrates that the Islamic State is not a cohesive fighting force but merely a ragtag band of bullies capable of terrorizing ill-equipped resistance fighters and unarmed civilians.

It's time for Obama to seize the moment and continue to use our warplanes to annihilate the Islamic State forces threatening Baghdad as well as their concentrations across a wide swath of Syria.

To finish this vitally important task, Obama will have to put American boots on the ground — about 20,000 crack troops equipped with 100 or so tanks could handle the task easily with available air support.

The assessment by our leading defense intelligence experts that the Islamic State constitutes a far more dangerous threat to our homeland and the continent of Europe than al-Qaida ever did is correct.

Its ranks include many jihadists from America and Europe, who speak fluent English and can easily bypass tightened airport security and enter our country by

crossing our "open border" with Mexico.

Once inside the U.S. their expertise at bomb-making and their willingness to sacrifice their lives in suicide missions allows them to perpetrate horrors that will make the events of 9/11 seem like mere child's play.

Now is the time for Obama to seriously ponder the advice of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who steered President George H.W. Bush's resolve to roll back Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Shortly after Saddam's move, Bush reviewed the situation with the Iron Lady, and Thatcher urged swift and resolute action, cautioning him "don't go wobbly on me now George."

That, Thatcher said later, is the lesson of the 20th century. "If an aggressor gets away with it, others will want to get away with it too, so he must be stopped and turned back. You cannot let him gain from his aggression."

Obama's premature removal of U.S. troops from Iraq three years ago was based on his perception that most Americans were "war weary" and wanted a quick and easy peace. But the U.S. — like it or not — is still the world's leader, the one indispensable nation in a rulerless world.

It's time for the president to lead, not follow public opinion polls.

In wiping out the butchers and torturers of the Islamic State, he will restore America's leadership in today's mad, mad world. If Thatcher's words don't stiffen his resolve, Obama should look to the great Democratic presidents of the last century — Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy. All stood up for global democracy against the tyrants of their day and all rank highly in any list of U.S. presidents.

Obama can enhance his reputation before he leaves office, by seizing the moment and obliterating one of the most dangerously terrorist groups in human history.

Whitt Flora, an independent journalist, is the former chief congressional correspondent for Aviation & Space Technology Magazine and former Washington correspondent for The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch. The opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.



No: Continue airstrikes, leave fighting to Kurds

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

The best way to start winning a war is to stop losing. That axiom certainly applies to what's going on in Iraq. But, that said, there is no place for American brigades in this battle. Yes, Americans have a huge stake in preventing al-Qaida's cousin from setting up a brutal caliphate in Iraq.

The Middle East is a crossroads of the world. If unchecked, the malevolent influence of the Islamic State could spiral into a sectarian conflict engulfing the entire region.

By some estimates, there are now more than 10,000 foreign fighters in Iraq, including more than 3,000 from the U.S. and other Western nations. These fighters may, in the future, be reassigned to return home and wage terrorist campaigns. No matter how you slice it, the longer a terrorist state stands in Iraq, the bigger the problem it poses to the world and to us.

Thus, America has every reason to act. The question is: How? How best to help restore peace, stability and the prospect of a better future to the people of Iraq?

The answer to that question does not require massive American ground forces on Iraqi soil.

That's not because Americans are "sick and tired of war." Americans don't like wars — and never have. Yet we fight when we have to. Americans are resilient and practical people. If there is a war to be won and our leaders lay out sensible reasons to fight and a practical, suitable and feasible way to win, Americans will march to the sound of the trumpets.

But not every crisis needs to be handled by sending in the Marines. In this case, the U.S. has practical options that fit well with our vital national interests and can help relieve the growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

Washington should focus on marginalizing the destructive influence of Iran, choking off the pipeline that feeds foreign fighters to the Islamic State and setting the conditions that will allow the Iraqis to take back their country.

The Iranian regime is already overstretched. With a nuclear "deal" nowhere in sight, the U.S. has every reason to reinvigorate the sanctions regime against Tehran. This will force them to end their expensive forays into Iraq.

To halt the flow of foreign fighters, the U.S. should focus on disrupting pipeline operations in Turkey and other "countries of transit" where fighters stage to move in and out of the Syria-Iraq theater.

The rest of the solution lies in helping native assets on the ground do their jobs better. Kurdish security forces and volunteers are more than willing and capable of defending themselves.

What they need is rapid, effective support from the U.S. and other friends and allies. In the south, the Iraqi military is still a force to be reckoned with.

What's needed in both areas are air support, skilled advisers, intelligence gathering, ammo and other supplies.

The U.S. can help with all of that. And it should also keep working diplomatically to help Tehran's sectarian, malfunctioning government get its act together.

The U.S. also needs to help nearby Jordan, which has borne the brunt of housing more than 600,000 registered refugees from Syria. Strained by that immense burden, Amman now finds itself in the crosshairs of the Islamic State.

Driving those fighters from the field requires American support, but not an American invasion.

Once the dual dangers of the Islamic State and Iran are rolled back, there might well be a role for an international force in Iraq to help stabilize things while the nation rebuilds.

This is a role that U.S. forces would have played, had they not been precipitously withdrawn in 2011. The scope and composition of that international force is something a farsighted leader might want to start thinking about. But for now, Washington must focus primarily on how to stop losing.

James Jay Carafano is a 25-year Army veteran and vice president of Defense and Foreign Policy Studies for The Heritage Foundation. The opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Stunt blocks traffic on Golden Gate Bridge

CASAN FRANCISCO — Authorities are trying to identify a driver who performed a stunt on the Golden Gate Bridge while other vehicles blocked traffic.

Video that has surfaced online shows the driver doing doughnuts on the bridge in a sports car. California Highway Patrol Officer Andrew Barclay said the CHP received a call about numerous other vehicles stopping traffic on Sunday afternoon to allow the stunt.

Barclay said the vehicles endangered themselves, pedestrians on the bridge's sidewalk and other drivers.

Similar stunts have occurred on highways in Oakland.

TSA to train officers on recognizing DC licenses

DCWASHINGTON — Transportation Security Administration workers will be getting training on how to recognize District of Columbia driver's licenses and identification cards.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the district's delegate to Congress, said the training will help the TSA resolve the recurring problem of officers not recognizing the validity of District licenses at airports.

The Washington Post reported earlier this year that a District teacher was questioned about the validity of her license while boarding a plane in Phoenix. Many similar stories later surfaced.

Norton, a Democrat, met with a TSA official recently. She said the agency will make sure that all three current District licenses are part of officers' shift briefings. Officers will also host a new four-hour training session that includes work on identification of licenses.

Deputies: Parents on heroin with kids in car

LA METAIRIE — Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies say a mother and father passed out on heroin with their two young sons in the car.

Col. John Fortunato, a spokesman for the sheriff's office, said Michael Pierce, 41, and Melanie Pierce, 34, of Denham Springs, were found Sunday in their car in the parking lot of a Metairie restaurant.

Fortunato said they face charges that include endangering a child, having drugs and paraphernalia in the presence of a child and possession of heroin.

He says the children, ages 4 years and 11 months, were taken to the hospital, but suffered no injuries. Fortunato said the children then were released to their grandparents.

Man rescued from car over scenic hill

PAPITTSBURGH — Police believe a man may have fallen asleep at the wheel before his car smashed through a rail and over a hillside on scenic

THE CENSUS

378

The number of customers in a chain of kindness that lasted for hours at a Starbucks drive-thru in Florida. A woman ordered an iced coffee about 7 a.m. Wednesday in St. Petersburg and asked to pay for the stranger in the car behind her. He returned the favor. The chain kept going as employees kept court, finally ending about 6 p.m. when customer number 379 ordered a regular coffee and, when told of the chain, said she only wanted to pay for her own coffee.



THOMAS SLUSSER, THE (JOHNSTOWN, PA.) TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT/AP

S-moo-ch

Liyann Berkey, 3, of Somerset, Pa., kisses her shorthorn calf, Josie, prior to the youth showmanship competition during the dairy livestock show at the Somerset County Fair in Meyersdale, Pa.

Mount Washington, which overlooks Pittsburgh.

Police have yet to release the driver's name, but said he crashed off Grandview Avenue about 12:45 p.m. Sunday.

Police spokeswoman Sonya Toler said the man wasn't badly hurt and was able to get out of the car on his own. But he still had to be hoisted to safety by emergency crews up the steep incline.

The car came to rest about 30 feet below the edge of the hillside. It was stopped by dense vegetation.

Military offers medical services to needy

MD CUMBERLAND — The Army Reserve is offering free medical and dental services to needy families in the Cumberland area.

The military and the Allegheny County Health Department training event started Aug. 11 and continues through Saturday at the Allegheny County Fairgrounds.

Organizers said 60 to 80 military medical professionals are honing their skills in dental and vision care, behavioral management and endocrinology.

The event is part of the military's Innovative Readiness Training Program, in partnership with the local health department and the Allegheny County Human Resources Development Commission.

Woman evaluated after naked flagpole climb

OR PORTLAND — Police say they've sent a 34-year-old woman to the hospital for a mental evaluation after she made a naked flagpole climb on the roof of a downtown Portland office building.

Police said she stripped about midnight Wednesday, hauled down the flag and then wrapped herself in it, brandishing a lighter and a fire extinguisher.

Then, officers said, she began throwing construction glue from the building, listed as having 12 floors. Several vehicles were damaged.

Officers said she appeared to be in a mental health crisis and may have been taking stimulant drugs.

Arson investigators say they didn't know whether she was linked to a rooftop fire at the near-

by 15-story Yeon Building that broke out about the same time. Firefighters contained the fire in about 20 minutes.

86-year-old woman writes romance novel

UT SALT LAKE CITY — An 86-year-old Utah woman became a first-time novelist by writing a steamy romance novel about a bored housewife.

Georgia Gorringer said it took her five years to write the tale of a woman who listens to talk radio and is turned on by the voice of a man she hears.

"And that voice on the radio, oh, he had a magic voice! And it just turned her on!" Gorringer said laughing during an interview with KUTV.

Her adult daughter, Bobbie Posey, is proud of her mother's accomplishment but said she was taken aback by the amount of steaminess in the book.

"Sometimes I'm like, mother, how could you do that? How can you write that?" said Posey. "But she did it."

The 176-page book, titled "No Good-Byes," came out in February and is available on Kindle and

Amazon. It isn't available in book stores. Gorringer wrote it under her pen name, Georgie Marie, and released it using a company that helps authors self-publish.

Gorringer, who is a great-great grandmother, insists the story is all fiction, but her daughter isn't buying it.

"A lot of it is actually real-life," said Posey. "I mean, we know who she's talking about."

Seattle's top pot cop back on patrol

WA SEATTLE — The Seattle police officer who was reassigned last month after it was learned he wrote 80 percent of the marijuana tickets is back to his regular job.

Police said Monday there was no reason he couldn't return to normal duties, although he remains under investigation by the Office of Professional Accountability.

The bicycle officer wrote 66 of the 83 tickets issued in the first half of the year in the city. The Seattle Times reported he's a bicycle officer for the precinct that includes downtown Seattle.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

From Afghanistan to Hollywood ... and back

Afghan-American actor shares tale of life as interpreter for Marines

By RIK STEVENS
The Associated Press

Fahim Fazli's screen career was beginning to take off, with roles in blockbusters like "Iron Man," when the Afghanistan-born actor decided it was time to give back to the country that had taken him in after he fled Russian occupation a quarter century earlier.

Starting at his U.S. passport, he wondered: "Do I earn this?"

Fazli, in New Hampshire last week for a book signing for "Fahim Speaks: A Warrior-Actor's Odyssey from Afghanistan to Hollywood and Back," went to work as an interpreter for the U.S. Marines in Helmand Province. It was a U.S. Marine who had helped Fazli track down his mother, who escaped Afghanistan in 1980, and put his family back together.

His wife, his agent and his manager asked him: "What are you doing?" He was established in Hollywood. Besides playing roles on

screen, he had advised a team of Hollywood heavyweights including Mike Nichols and Tom Hanks on "Charlie Wilson's War." Afghanistan was one of the most dangerous places in the world.

"I say, 'I would like to pay my dues for this country,'" Fazli said.

So in 2009, Fazli returned

to the streets of his childhood. He spent two years as an interpreter, bridging the tribal culture he was learning in the Marines with the tribal bedrock that underlies his homeland. By knowing the customs, knowing how Afghans treat people they trust — and those they don't — he thought he could make a difference.

"If they don't understand each other," he said, "they're going to shoot each other. They're going to kill each other."

Some moments were easy: He taught the Marines to keep a piece of candy, a pencil or a pad of paper in their gear when they went out in the streets: cheap gifts for the kids.

Fazli, charismatic and quick to laugh, also found ways to skirt the pitfalls. If an Afghan elder used colorful terms to describe a Marine officer, Fazli would sanitize it in translation.

"Of course I use a little acting skill to translate it the right way so this party doesn't get hurt and this party doesn't get hurt," he said.

If acting helped his translation, his work in Afghanistan helped the 48-year-old Fazli develop his career, especially in war flicks and, he freely admits, playing a Middle Eastern terrorist. He had a role in the Oscar-winning film "Argo" and recently finished filming "American Sniper" under Clint Eastwood's direction. With wavy black hair, a thick beard, dark complexion and intense eyes, he can convey menace when he shuts off his easy smile. But he doesn't mind being typecast.



Jim Cole/AP

Fahim Fazli, left, and retired Marine Michael Moffett prepare to check out a movie location at Mount Washington, N.H. Together, they wrote a book about Fazli's life as an Afghan native who fled his country for the U.S., became an actor and returned to Afghanistan to work as a translator for the U.S. Marines. Right: The many faces of Fazli in movies and fan photos.



Courtesy of Fahim Fazli fan page, IMDB

Fazli's work in Afghanistan helped him develop his career by playing Middle Eastern terrorists in Hollywood movies. He says he has no problem with being typecast.

"I want to introduce all those close-minded (people) who have hijacked the religion and become a sociopath," he said. "The reason I'm doing this is to show them how evil they are being a terrorist. And I enjoy it. I like to intro-

duce their real colors."

He and co-author Mike Moffett, a retired Marine and professor at the New Hampshire Technical Institute, know they face long odds getting Fazli's story from the page to the screen. The co-authors hiked Mount Washington last week and would love to have New Hampshire's Presidential Range stand in for Asia's rugged Hindu Kush mountains.

To get a shot, they'll need more than Hollywood connections, said Larry Benaquist, professor emeritus of film studies at Keene State College.

"For them to work, you need some kind of American connection," he said of war movies. "Maybe the fact that (Fazli) worked with the Marines. At some point, his relationship with America is shown."



HEALTH & FITNESS

Just what the doctor ordered

Following physician's directions is not so easy for some

By DR. JANE SADLER
The Dallas Morning News

Six months before my children had wisdom teeth surgery, I met with their surgeon and was given verbal and written instructions as well as a video on preoperative preparations. It included necessary information for administration of the children's sedation and antibiotics on the day of surgery.

We arrived early the day of surgery, and my breakfast-deprived children were ready for their operation as I proudly displayed the surgeon's instruction folder on my lap. Then I was asked: "Dr. Sadler, have they had their preoperative medications?"

"Oh, no! I shrunk back in my chair like the retracting garden hose. That she called me "Dr. Sadler" in front of the other patients was salt in the wound. Dr. Mom had failed, and it showed clearly in my children's horrified faces.

There are no excuses for my mishap, and I am more than capable of understanding medical instructions. But at least I know that, as a patient, I am not the only one who has had problems.

Early studies reported in Canadian Family Physician first recognized the problem in the 1970s. At that time, less than half of patients given instructions followed them completely, and almost a quarter deviated from the instructions.

Patients receiving information both verbally and in writing were more likely to comply with physician directions. Still, according to a 2013 article in *Medscape*, nearly 50 percent of adult patients still had difficulty understanding and therefore complying with medical instructions.

Not understanding instructions leads to poor medical compliance and might lead to costly hospitalizations and readmissions. Studies released in "The Revolving Door: A Report on Hospital Readmissions 2012" demonstrated that 1 in 8 Medicare patients required readmission after surgical procedures, as did 1 in 6 after receiving nonsurgical medical care.

"Every patient's story about his or her hospital readmission is complicated, unique and hard to characterize. Yet there are common traits across the stories," according to the hospital report.

For example, one patient left the hospital with a diagnosis of smoking-related lung disease, but he had no understanding of how to use his prescription inhaler properly, and

he continued to smoke. Due to his inability to manage the disease at home, his condition quickly deteriorated and he required readmission. After his second hospital discharge, a health-care team intervened to more closely monitor his breathing and had him enrolled in a smoking-cessation class.

Another example from the study describes a diabetic patient admitted to the hospital for dangerously elevated blood sugars. She was discharged without clear instructions on the use of her insulin. Her primary care doctor was not offering diabetes care.

Shortly afterward, she required readmission, but this time she met with a dietitian. Together they developed a clear understanding on adjusting insulin doses. Understandably, she fared much better.

Patients and their families can be overwhelmed by the diagnosis of a new disease and might feel that the health care system rushes them too soon to discharge. Sometimes in the clinic, the doctor has to move on to the next patient. Both of these situations can make patients feel unprepared and left on their own. Neither of these situations is beneficial to the patient or the hospital system. This is why more

attention is being given to follow-up care than in prior years.

Before you leave a medical provider's office, be certain to review their instructions and always leave with your own written notes or directions provided by the clinician. Never feel silly about repeating the instructions aloud to get confirmation of mutual understanding. Don't expect to remember everything that was said, because I can assure you that your memory bank is already quite full.

What's my excuse for failing to follow excellent instruction? I have none. I should have been prepared. I assumed I knew what to do on the day of surgery. After all, I am a doctor! Well, this Dr. Mom relearned a valuable and very humbling lesson.

No longer will I leave a medical provider's office without a calendar reminder set into the computer with all instructions needed prior to future appointments.

Thankfully, I had a forgiving surgeon who informed me that he would "probably have made the same assumption," which is doctor-speak for a gentle hand-slap.

— Dr. Jane Sadler is a family medicine physician on staff at Baylor Medical Center in Garland, Texas. View her blog at healthblog.dallasnews.com.



LUIS SINCO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

When shopping for workout apparel, experts recommend focusing on comfort.

Find the right workout gear

By MEGAN VASILIADES
Chicago Tribune

For Chicagoan Joi Carthan, the hardest part about shopping for workout clothes is finding something both fashionable and comfortable. "Every body type is different," Carthan said.

When you're shopping for an upcoming workout, experts say to consider a few things alongside comfort.

Material. Sonya Ramgotra, head of design at MPG Sport, suggests looking on the tag for materials that will benefit your workout. Keep an eye out for breathable materials that include moisture wicking, the stretchy material spandex and elastic.

Brooke Johnson, who works in community relations at Lululemon, recommends looking for preshrunk clothes, since those clothes will withstand washes over time.

Be sure to watch out for clothes with seams, which can cause chafing and irritation. And unless you're training for a high-intensity event or in recovery, compression clothing isn't necessary, said Keryn Francisco, creative director at Lucy.

"If you're working out to stay active and fit, we recommend focusing on comfort, such as lightweight fabrics that encourage airflow, (and) cozy fabrics in cold weather to keep you warm and supportive but not restrictive use of stretch," Francisco said.

Depending on how your physical activity, you should look for certain details when shopping. For runners, Ramgotra suggests bottoms with elastic waistbands to keep shorts from falling down, strategically placed pockets and clothing with reflectivity. For yoga, Johnson says to avoid zippers, pockets and loose clothing because you'll be doing a lot of work on your back and stomach.

"When you're working out, you're just thinking of the workout and not the clothes on your body," Johnson said. "The clothes should become like a second skin."

Bikers should look for form-fitted bottoms with padding specific to the hours you'll be riding. Also, cyclists should look for tops with a raglan seam, a seam that's specifically designed for a hunched-over body with a longer backside, Ramgotra said.

If you only plan on doing yoga once a week, then the \$90 yoga pants probably aren't for you. But those who regularly work out might want to consider investing in long-lasting brands.

"I still have Lululemon clothes from when I started working nine years ago," Johnson said.

And according to Francisco, the investment in better material is important for any workout.

"It's worth paying for a garment that has been engineered to have zero distraction, zero chafing and maximum support so you can participate in your activity without thinking about your clothes," she said.



Before leaving a doctor's appointment, make sure to review their instructions. Taking your own notes can also be helpful.

The Kansas City Star illustration

LIFESTYLE

Cozy
comfortRetro trend
puts 1960s
campers in
big demand

By JACKIE BURRELL
Contra Costa Times

There's something about s'mores, ghost stories and olive-hued canvas tents that taps into our deepest collective subconscious. Your childhood camping adventures may have involved a ripstop nylon, instant pop-up — or a hotel — but there wasn't a soul who saw Wes Anderson's recent "Moonrise Kingdom" and didn't sigh with nostalgic delight over the Khaki Scouts' olive drab, plaid-lined tents.

Camping speaks to our frontier past, the days of wagon trains and wilderness encampments. So when Airstream designer Wally Byam began sketching out plans for his first DIY travel trailers in the 1920s, the concept took off like wildfire. By the '50s, his company's silver, capsule-shaped Airstreams were one of the nation's most iconic products, with caravan rallies popping up in this country and abroad.

The Airstream has made a major comeback in recent years and whether that has fueled a vintage camping trend or it's the other way around, one thing's for sure: It has become increasingly easy to rent a retro trailer for a weekend, whether it's an Airstream, a teardrop camper or a refurbished vintage VW bus. Ready-to-rent on-site Airstreams are popping up in KOAs and other campgrounds. And the Autocamp, Santa Barbara's "boutique Airstream lodging" concept — a downtown pod of five fully decked-out trailers — is expanding to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Ventura Beach, Calif., this year.

So it was only fitting that when we took a retro teardrop camper out for a recent weekend spin, what should we run into but an Airstream rally with more than 80 silvery campers glinting in the sun, smack dab in the middle of our Russian River campground.

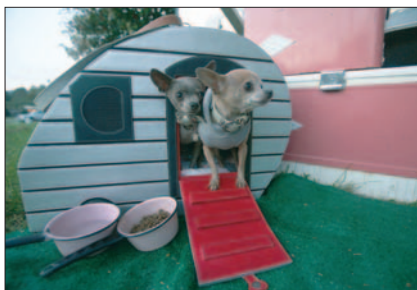


Above: A teardrop camper makes a snugly retreat for two people and has a tidy camp kitchen in the back. Top: The campers are 4 to 6 feet wide, 8 to 10 feet long and light enough that you can just pull it into place.

PHOTOS BY JANE TYSKA/Bay Area News Group

We'd picked up an adorable teardrop in Pingrover, Calif., near Petaluma, where Vacation in a Can's Joe and Leslie Kosareff refurbish, build and rent out these tiny retro trailers. Joe grew up camping in Oregon and at Lake Tahoe; Leslie spent her childhood vacations at Lake Shasta. But sleeping on the ground becomes less comfortable as one ages — and some people would say it was never very comfortable in the first place. So Joe set out to find a middle ground, something small and non-RV-like, but with an actual bed. He found it in that darling of the Great Depression, the teardrop-shaped camper.

Popular from the 1930s to the '60s, these little trailers are 4 to 6 feet wide, 8 to 10 feet long and light enough that you can park your car, unhook the camper and just pull it into place. The campers are making a big comeback now, so much so that the Kosareffs can barely keep up with the demand, and other teardrop manufacturers are springing up across the country.



Chihuahuas have their own retro-style camper-themed doghouse at a California campsite.

Teardrops are a cozy camping option for two snugly people. There's plenty of room to sit up inside, space for stashing some clothes and gear, and the foam mattresses range from 74 to 49 inches long. If you, like me, have

issues with claustrophobic spaces, it's helpful to leave one of the doors ajar during the night.

The best part is the tidy camp kitchen in back, which Joe and Leslie have equipped with everything from pots, pans to table-

ware, and the work surfaces are counter height.

If you think the pictures of teardrops are cute, wait until you see one in person. Campers kept wandering into our site, eager to take a peek inside the adorable trailer — and we kept wandering over to the Airstream encampment to chat with the most sociable assortment of people we've ever encountered. They meet twice a year at rallies like this — a throwback to the 1950s, when Byam's caravan club gathered in spots all over the world.

This particular group was eager to offer peeks inside their trailers, which ranged from meticulously redone Flower Power-era models to land yachts with glass shower doors and flat-screen TVs. In fact, Airstream-hopping is de rigueur. Everyone was peeking inside everyone else's. By nightfall, the trailer awnings were slung with retro twinkle lights and a massive cocktail party was in full swing.

We meandered back to our own spot, campsite for a camping cocktail party of our own.

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BOOKS

Judging a book's cover

'Chocolate Factory' fans react powerfully to publisher's new art

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

The legions of readers buying physical books may be growing smaller. But when you mess with their classics, they're as loud as they've ever been.

That's what Penguin discovered last week, when the publishing house's British arm announced the cover art for a 50th-anniversary edition of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." It's an image of a doll-like little girl decked out in heavy makeup and a pink feather boa à la JonBenet Ramsey — no Willy Wonka, no Charlie, and certainly no chocolate.

Although the new edition will be printed only in Britain, it was controversial enough that bookworms worldwide tore their eyes from their reading to register their outrage.

The cover is certainly a departure from other incarnations of the Roald Dahl class-

ic, most of which have featured the famed whimsical illustrations by Quentin Blake. But the "Modern Classics" imprint under which the new edition will be released is not a children's book line.

Instead, the sleek yet strange new edition of "Charlie" is probably intended for older readers, said Nan Graham, publisher of New York-based imprint Scribner. She's well versed in the repackaging of classics, having overseen new printings of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind" and Ernest Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises." Adults who would not want to be seen



Penguin/The Washington Post



are always trying to carve out new markets for their books, Graham said.

Is that what the editors behind the new "Charlie" cover were going for? A blog post from Penguin accompanying the jacket art announcement suggested that its eeriness was not unintentional.

"This new image... looks at the children

at the center of the story, and highlights the way Roald Dahl's writing manages to embrace both the light and the dark aspects of life," it read.

But much of the literary world was not sold on the rebranding. Why did the cover of a novel about five kids and a wonderful — if admittedly bizarre — candy-maker look like a scene from "Toddlers & Tiars"? Commenters on Penguin's Facebook page called it "creepy," "sexualized" and "inappropriate garbage."

Tony Ross, a former publishing house art director who teaches a class on jacket design for the D.C. Public Library, has a particularly bookish perspective. He says the modernization of a beloved children's story, even if it goes no deeper than the cover art, gets to the heart of some reader anxiety — worries that the world is changing, and the book industry along with it.

The classics "are sort of these touchstones for people," Ross said.



The Invisible Bridge

Rick Perlstein

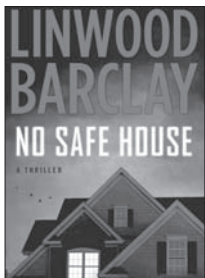
In this brick of a book, Chicagoan Perlstein has done a jam-packed job of chronicling a riveting, portentous period of American history that in many ways taught us lessons we still haven't learned: Engaging in a futile war. White House cover-ups. CIA spying on everyday Americans. A yearning for a brighter, better future.

Perlstein's exhaustive retelling of this period's history is also exhausting. You have to really want to know about Watergate and the 1976 presidential race to cross the finish line at page 804.

Some of the most fascinating passages come early in the book when Perlstein analyzes a young Reagan. Through an act of will, Reagan convinced himself that his unsettled childhood was wonderful. From age 11 onward, all his stories had happy endings.

Perlstein contends that politician Reagan came along when the nation yearned for a hero. It's an intriguing argument, and Perlstein makes it credibly. But that story line seems almost an excuse for the recap of a tumultuous decade.

— Ellen Warren
Chicago Tribune



No Safe House

Linwood Barclay

A family's past continues to haunt Terry Archer and his family as they find it impossible to move on with their lives in this suburban thriller.

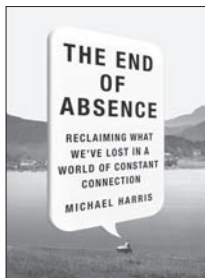
Cynthia Archer still remembers a tragedy in her upbringing, and she promised herself that her husband, Terry, and her daughter, Grace, would be trauma-free. That hope was shattered seven years ago when her past reared its head.

Grace is now a teenager, and teen angst has created a rift between mother and daughter. In a moment of anger, Cynthia makes a mistake, and the guilt forces her to move out.

One night, Grace decides to be a bit dangerous with an older boy, and the events that unfold seem to indicate she shot someone. While a father searches for answers, he also tries to keep what happened from his wife.

While this is a sequel to "No Time for Goodbye," familiarity with that earlier thriller isn't required. What makes the story work is the depth and strength of the Archer family and their love for each other that oozes off the page.

— Jeff Ayers/AP



The End of Absence

Michael Harris

"The End of Absence" is a fascinating assessment of this moment we inhabit and, for those old enough to remember, highlights the rare opportunity we have to recall what it was like before we filled our day with unstoppable status updates, conversations interrupted by Wikipedia fact checks and the suffocating weight of thousands of emails.

It's all become so normal that it feels as if we knew all of Harris' observations before we read them, though they remain insightful and stunning and frightening. We are denizens of a world where facts are invented, true expertise is devalued, authenticity is at a premium and distractions reign.

"As we embrace a technology's gifts, we usually fail to consider what they ask from us in return — the subtle, hardly noticeable payments we make in exchange for their marvelous service," he writes. "... Why would we bother to register the end of solitude, of ignorance, of lack?"

Though Harris doesn't totally answer those questions, he makes clear something has been lost, and it's hard not to agree.

— Matt Sedensky/AP



Blood Aces

Doug J. Swanson

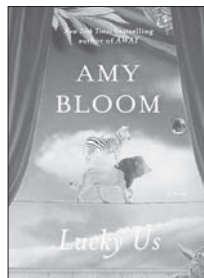
Benney Binion, native of tiny Pilot Grove, Texas, began his career as a crooked horse trader, graduated to bootlegging, took over the policy racket in Dallas, broke into the big time by opening the Horseshoe casino in Las Vegas, launched the World Series of Poker and turned the once back-alley game of Texas Hold'em into a worldwide spectator sport.

Along the way, Benny cavorted with gangsters, corrupted cops and U.S. senators; and ordered an untold number of murders.

Despite the bodies Benny left in his wake, the law barely laid a glove on him. A target of federal investigations for decades, he did just five years behind bars for tax evasion.

Swanson, an award-winning Texas reporter, researched his subject meticulously, going through court records and FBI files and interviewing survivors who know parts of the tale. The result is not only a fine biography but also a history of the pre-World War II rackets in Dallas and the birth of Vegas as seen through the lens of charming but ruthless Benny.

— Bruce DeSilva/AP



Lucky Us

Amy Bloom

I can't think of a book that has more wittily and movingly encapsulated the years from 1939 to 1949, covering both the Second World War and the periods just before and after.

This richly textured, pitch-perfect flashback had me desperately wanting to somehow contact deceased relatives who lived through that time and quiz them.

The book's protagonist is named Eva Acton. Twelve-year-old Eva forms a tenuous bond with half-sister Iris, 16, that strengthens when they hit the road after Dad literally takes the money and runs. The girls head to Hollywood, where Eva plays house while Iris sashays her way into the movie-studio system and its underground lesbian network.

Despite the often fraught, occasionally horrific circumstances Eva and Iris find themselves in, this is a book that's completely permeated with love, humor and kindness. Readers will root for virtually all of the characters, but especially our Eva.

— Joy Tipping
The Dallas Morning News

VIDEO GAMES



New and improved

‘The Last of Us: Remastered’ transforms a beautiful classic into a stunning one

BY MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Before Naughty Dog released “The Last of Us” last year, there was a certain expectation for how a game from the studio responsible for the “Uncharted” series would turn out. It was assumed that it would be beautiful to look at — “Uncharted” is one of the most visually detailed games around. Fans expected great voice acting and interesting set pieces, based on the studio’s output to that point.

What they could not have anticipated, however, was the impact “The Last of Us” would go on to create. Not only did the deeply emotional exploration of humanity disguised as a third-person shooter run away with nearly every game of the year award imaginable, it has remained solidly in the discussion for one of the best games ever created.

The only real downside to the game is that it was released toward the end of the PlayStation 3’s life cycle and as such, people waiting for the inevitable hardware refresh missed out.

That’s a problem the recent release of “The Last of Us: Remastered” is aiming to fix.

Right off the bat, if you’re one of the players who missed out on this game the first time around, it’s absolutely worth picking up. The components that made the game so memorable — the story, its themes and gameplay — remain unchanged.

Joel and Ellie’s journey across a post-apocalyptic America still resonates a year later, perhaps even more so with a bit of space between the release hype and today. It doesn’t hurt that “Remastered” includes a visual fidelity overhaul that now has the game running at a silky-smooth 60 frames per second (with an option to cap it at the original 30fps), native 1080p res-

olution and upgraded textures that have brought the game from beautiful to stunning.

The game was never ugly, but now it’s exceptionally detailed and has to be seen in motion for it to really be appreciated. In fact, Naughty Dog is so proud of what their artists and programmers were able to do with “Remastered” that they’ve also included a photo mode that can turn on and off at any point in the game. I spent more time than I care to admit in this mode just taking screenshots of the gorgeous backdrops.

The inclusion of the post-release DLC to the package is the other big addition to the overall experience. Personally, I would strongly recommend completing the extra missions after completing the main story, as some parts of them expand upon things that happen in the main story.

Naughty Dog also included a new difficulty level titled “Grounded,” which strips away the listen mode and greatly increases the intelligence of the enemies, while reducing the amount of supplies in the world. This mode is strictly for those who enjoy suffering, but it’s a nice addition for returning fans who already know what challenges lay around the corner.

Even with these additions to the original game, it still remains largely the same game that millions of people played last year. If you’re a newcomer to the series, “Remastered” is an easy recommendation. “The Last of Us” is a game that should be played by anybody con-

sidering themselves a fan of video games.

But if you’ve already played it on the PlayStation 3, is it still worth your hard-earned dollars? I would say yes, but with a caveat. As much fun as I had revisiting one of my favorite games and playing around with the photo mode, it’s very much the same game I played just 13 months ago. I’m still shooting cordyceps-infested abominations, dragging around platforms and hunting down ladders.

The upgraded visuals helped to lessen some of the monotony, but no amount of high-resolution leaves can detract from the fact that I’ve already been there and done that. That’s not to say I didn’t enjoy my time revisiting one of the better games ever created, but your personal enjoyment of “Remastered” will be strongly tied to how often you enjoy replaying games.

If you’re looking for anything massively new, you might be disappointed. But if you’re looking to see what happens when a studio takes one of the best games ever made, and then improves upon it in every conceivable way, “The Last of Us: Remastered” is a definite must-purchase.

Bottom Line: Newcomers to “The Last of Us” should buy this immediately; fans revisiting it probably should as well.

Platform: PlayStation 4

darnell.michael@stripes.com

“The Last of Us: Remastered” for the PlayStation 4 features higher-resolution character models, and enhanced shadows and lighting, in addition to several other gameplay improvements.

Photos courtesy of Naughty Dog



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

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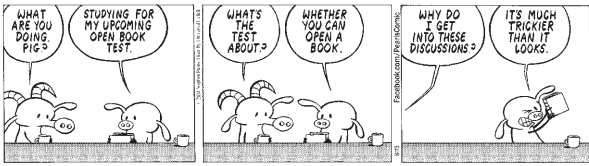
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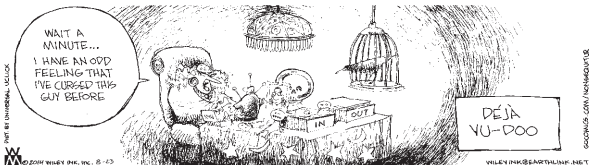
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



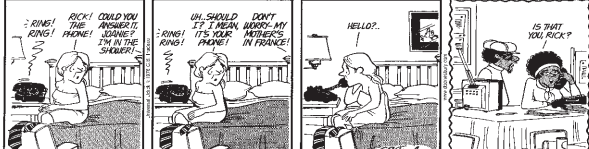
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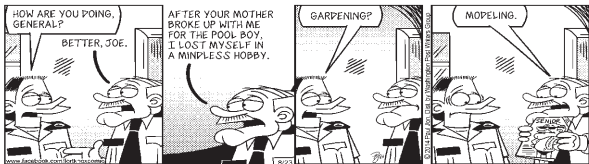
Get Fuzzy



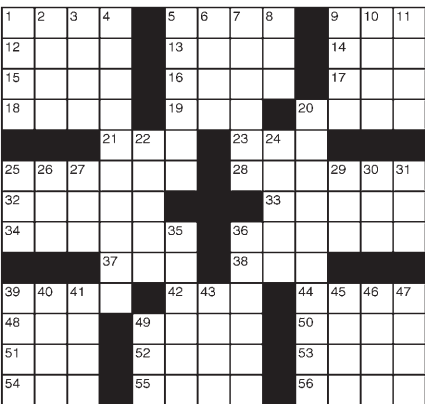
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Rolling stone's lack
- 5 Damon or Dillon
- 9 Allow
- 12 Muscat's nation
- 13 Assert
- 14 "— got it!"
- 15 Actress Sorvino
- 16 Showroom sample
- 17 Blend
- 18 Use a teaspoon
- 19 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
- 20 Filly's brother
- 21 Shade source
- 23 Yoko of music
- 25 Confuse
- 28 Pulled hard
- 32 Old marketplace
- 33 Musical composition
- 34 Watery discharges
- 36 Way
- 37 Atlas page
- 38 On in years
- 39 Big fish story?
- 42 "— Town"
- 44 Colonial sewer
- 48 Work with
- 49 Painter Joan
- 50 In the know
- 51 Cacophony
- 52 "Sad to say ..."
- 53 BLT spread

DOWN

- 1 Mid-May honorees
- 2 Leave out
- 3 Bollywood costume
- 4 Marching band instruments
- 5 Lady of Lyons
- 6 State with certainty
- 7 Hoyden
- 8 Pair
- 9 Wheels of fortune?
- 10 Satanic
- 11 Libretto
- 22 Petting zoo favorite
- 24 Twangy
- 25 Scratch
- 26 "This tastes terrible!"
- 27 Buck's mate
- 29 Family
- 30 Summer on the Seine
- 31 Aachen article
- 35 Booty
- 36 Sad
- 39 Law of movies
- 40 "Yeah, right!"
- 41 Departed
- 43 Orsk's river
- 45 October birthstone
- 46 Sauce source
- 47 Winter forecast
- 49 — tai

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-23

CRYPTOQUIP

BYHB OQZXMPPO FA BYO
QOBHX QFXX UOOZR RBHWFAD
HB ZOMZXO VAAOWGFADXP.

FB'R H GOWP RBOOX P XMMU.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK ONE DAY WHEN THE COPS CATCH TINKER BELL, SHE PROBABLY WILL BE FINED FOR GLITTERING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

WNBA/SPORTS BRIEFS



STACY BENOS/AP

Minnesota Lynx forward and league MVP Maya Moore (23) drives past San Antonio Stars guard Kayla McBride (21) and forward Danielle Adams during the first half of Game 1 of the WNBA Western Conference semifinals on Thursday.

MVP Moore leads Lynx past Stars in Game 1

Defending champs survive late San Antonio rally

By JESS MYERS

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS—The defending champion Minnesota Lynx got a reminder from the San Antonio Stars that nothing comes easy in the postseason.

Hours after being named the WNBA's most valuable player, Maya Moore scored 24 points to help the beat the Stars 88-84 Thursday night in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals.

Minnesota led by 15 with 9 minutes to go before the Stars went on an 18-2 run to go ahead, 73-72 lead with 4:12 to play. However, Seimone Augustus scored six of her 16 points in the final 2:11 as Minnesota recovered to pull out the win.

"I was happy for a large part of the game, then something bad happened. Up 70-55 we kind of had them right where we wanted and then the bottom fell out defensively," said Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve, crediting Augustus, who has battled knee problems this season, for righting the ship. "Mone was big. Those last three baskets were huge for us."

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is at San Antonio on Saturday night.

Kayla McBride scored 21 points to lead the Stars. Becky Hammon scored 14 of her 17 in the second half, including a spinning shot with 1.9 seconds left that pulled the Stars within two.

"She wants to keep playing in a big way," Stars coach Dan Hughes said of Hammon, who will retire at season's end to become an assistant coach with the NBA's San Antonio Spurs. "I've had a ringside seat for about 50

of those, so that didn't totally surprise me." However, Moore made two free throws with 1.3 seconds left and the Lynx beat the Stars for the 18th time in 21 meetings.

After the Stars controlled the game early, Minnesota went on an 8-0 run and led by double digits in the first quarter, capped off by a highlight-reel alley-op play with Lindsay Whalen passing to Moore for an emphatic bucket.

Then the Lynx struggled, missing eight consecutive shots, and the Stars capitalized and pulled to 24-22. However, the Lynx started making shots again and increased their lead to 14 before taking a 40-30 advantage at halftime.

Moore led all first-half scorers with 13 while McBride had 10 for San Antonio.

"I was just trying to come in and give us some energy early by knocking down shots," said McBride, a rookie from Notre Dame who was playing in her first playoff game.

Hammon made a driving layup, was fouled, and hit the free throw to put San Antonio ahead 73-72 with just over four minutes left. But it was a short-lived advantage, as Moore hit a layup to put Minnesota back up for good, then blocked McBride's layup attempt on the ensuing possession.

"That's what the playoffs are about," Moore said, after Minnesota opened its 10th playoff series in the past four years. "It's about option 3 and option 4 and you can be more persistent at what they want to get. San Antonio and, especially, Becky will keep working until she gets what she wants, and we had to make it tough on her."

Briefly

Keselowski gets first Truck Series victory

The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Brad Keselowski earned his first NASCAR Truck Series win on Thursday.

Keselowski passed defending champion Kyle Busch with 75 laps to go and held off Busch's teammate Darrell Wallace Jr. in the UNOH 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Wallace closed to Keselowski's back bumper with two laps left, but drifted high in Turn 1 and Keselowski pulled away.

Four-time Truck Series champion Ron Hornaday Jr. finished third, followed by Matt Crafton and series points leader Johnny Sauter. Busch crashed with 22 laps left and finished 24th.

Keselowski's first Truck Series win came after 62 starts. The driver of the No. 19 Ford is the 25th driver to win in all three of NASCAR's national series (Cup, Nationwide and Trucks).

Angels' Richards out for season with knee injury

BOSTON — The Los Angeles Angels are going to be without Garrett Richards for a playoff run.

One of the AL West leader's top starters sustained a serious knee injury, tearing his left patellar tendon Wednesday against the Boston Red Sox.

Richards was 13-4 with a 2.61 ERA this year. It's a serious blow to the Angels, who also lost starter Tyler Skaggs to Tommy John surgery this season.

"You're going to be thinking of Garrett once every fifth day when he was out there," manager Mike Scioscia said Thursday. "You might not be able to replace that, but it doesn't mean that we're not going to be able to reach our goal as a cumulative pitching staff."



WADE PAYNE/AP

Brad Keselowski does a burnout after winning the NASCAR UNOH 200 Truck Series race on Thursday in Bristol, Tenn. It was Keselowski's first Truck Series victory.

Source: Brondello is WNBA coach of year

A person close to the situation says Phoenix's Sandy Brondello has won the WNBA coach of the year award.

Brondello guided the Mercury to a 29-5 record in her first sea-

son in charge. Phoenix won 16 straight games during the season, the second most in WNBA history, just short of the Sparks' record of 18 consecutive victories.

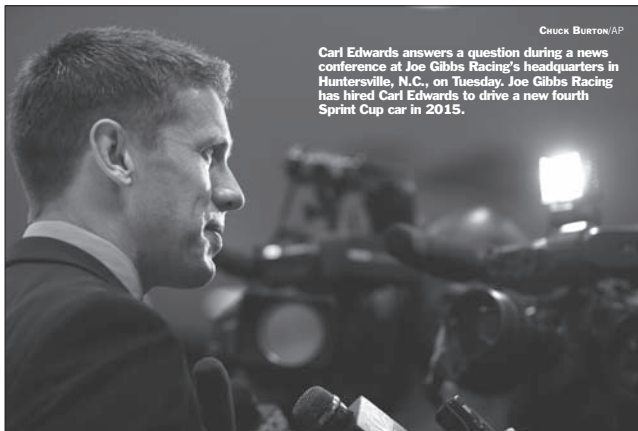
Also:

■ A person close to the situation says Phoenix's Brittney Griner has won the WNBA defensive

player of the year award.

Griner set a WNBA record with 129 blocks to help the Mercury win a league record 29 games. The second-year player averaged 15.6 points, 8.0 rebounds and 3.8 blocks this season. She blocked 11 shots in one game against Tulsa on June 29.

AUTO RACING



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Carl Edwards answers a question during a news conference at Joe Gibbs Racing's headquarters in Huntersville, N.C., on Tuesday. Joe Gibbs Racing has hired Carl Edwards to drive a new fourth Sprint Cup car in 2015.

'No excuses' now for JGR

Team is banking on Edwards to close gap on Hendrick

By JIM UTTER
The Charlotte Observer

NHUNTSVILLE, N.C. — No excuses. That's what Joe Gibbs Racing officials believe is left after the organization's announcement Tuesday that it would add a fourth Sprint Cup Series car in 2015 with driver Carl Edwards and a significant investment from communications technology company Arris, a new sponsor to NASCAR.

"We don't have any excuses why we can't compete with the likes of Hendrick" Motorsports, said JGR team President J.D. Gibbs.

"Financially, we should be in good shape there. I feel like with everything we have now, we're right there."

Edwards, who will finish the season at Roush Fenway Racing, will drive the No. 19 Toyota for JGR beginning next season, joining teammates Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Matt Kenseth.

Kenseth also moved to JGR after a long tenure at Roush. In his first season at JGR in 2013, he finished second in the championship standings and won a season-high seven races.

"Matt's success over here was a real eye-opener for me," said Edwards, who owns 23 Cup Series wins but has never won a series championship. "There's no bad blood or anything like that at Roush."

"I just feel that there are so many parts that come together here really well. You get JGR ready to start a fourth team. You get drivers like Matt, Kyle and Denny that are veterans and really good."

"The whole situation just feels really good to me. It looks like it will be a lot of fun to go racing." JGR has not finalized what Ed-



BON BROOKE/AP

Greg Biffle, left, talks with Carl Edwards after practice last week for the Sprint Cup Series race at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich.

wards' team will look like, but a significant number of the members likely are to come from its Nationwide program.

JGR has fielded three full-time Cup teams since 2005 and has held off expanding to the maximum of four entries, preferring to make the move when it could put together the best deal possible.

"This is as close as you can get to having all the right pieces," Gibbs said.

Edwards' move was not a surprise as it had been rumored for months. Roush officials announced last month Edwards would not return to its organization in 2015, but at the time Edwards declined to talk about his plans.

The size and scope of the investment of JGR's new partner, Arris, make it one of the biggest sponsor additions in recent years in NASCAR.

Not only will Arris sponsor approximately half the Cup season with Edwards, it also will sponsor driver Daniel Suarez next season

as he moves full time to JGR's No. 18 Nationwide Series team.

"Having this opportunity to run full time in the Nationwide Series with Joe Gibbs Racing is a dream come true," said Suarez, who has four wins in the Mexico series this season.

In addition, Arris will sponsor a handful of Truck series races for Suarez, a rising star in the Toyota Mexico Series, and partner in a diversity initiative with Escuderia Telmex to develop Mexican and Latin American drivers in NASCAR.

"We felt like we needed to get our name out there," said Bob Stanzione, chairman and CEO of Arris. "We're one of the largest companies in the world that provides high-speed data voice and video communications to service providers around the world."

"Speed, speed, speed is very important to us. NASCAR is about speed and Joe Gibbs and his team is about speed and high quality, high reliability, high integrity — the values we prize the most."

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP SERIES

This week: Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol, Tenn.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).

Race distance: 500 laps, 266.5 miles.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the fifth of his seven 2014 victories.

Last week: Jeff Gordon won from the pole position at Michigan for his third victory of the year. Kevin Harvick was second and Joey Logano finished in third.

Next race: Oral-B USA 500, Aug. 31, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Georgia.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

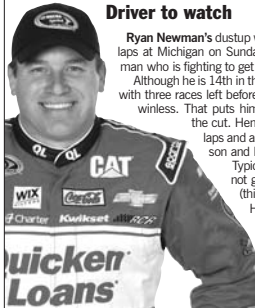
1. Jeff Gordon.....	816
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	813
3. Brad Keselowski.....	733
4. Joey Logano.....	714
5. Matt Kenseth.....	709
6. Kevin Harvick.....	687
7. Jimmie Johnson.....	686
8. Carl Edwards.....	679
9. Ryan Newman.....	679
10. Clint Bowyer.....	672
11. Greg Biffle.....	660
12. Kasey Kahne.....	651
13. Austin Dillon.....	638
14. Kyle Larson.....	636
15. Kyle Busch.....	620
16. Marcos Ambrose.....	616
17. Paul Menard.....	614
18. Brian Vickers.....	598
19. Jamie McMurray.....	596
20. Denny Hamlin.....	589

Driver to watch

Ryan Newman's dustup with Jimmie Johnson in the closing laps at Michigan on Sunday reflects the mad scramble of a man who is fighting to get in the Chase.

Although he is 14th in the adjusted standings for the Chase with three races left before the field of 16 is set, Newman is winless. That puts him in a precarious position to miss the cut. Hence, the aggressiveness in the final laps and a little bit of "trading paint" as Johnson and Newman scrambled for position.

Typical of Newman, he's been good but not great this season, with two Top 5s (third at Kentucky and fifth at New Hampshire) and eight Top 10s. He missed his best shot at winning at Phoenix, where he was battling Kyle Busch for the lead until a late caution negated their advantage over the rest of the pack and he finished seventh.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Food City 300 at Bristol, Tenn.

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).

Distance: 200 laps, 133.25 miles.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5 p.m. Saturday CET.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the ninth of his 12 2013 victories.

Last week: Chris Buescher won the road-course race at Mid-Ohio for his first career victory.

Next race: Great Clips 300, Aug. 30, Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Ga.

Online: nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: U.S. Nationals, Aug. 27-Sept. 1, Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis, Clermont, Indiana.

Last week: Morgan Lucas won the Top Fuel final in Brainerd, Minn., beating Doug Kalitta. The Funny Car final between John Force and Ron Capps and the Pro Stock semifinals and final were postponed by darkness after rain delays. They will be run at the U.S. Nationals.

Online: www.nhra.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Sonoma at Sonoma, Calif.

Track: Sonoma Raceway (road course, 2.385 miles).

Distance: 202.73 miles, 85 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 9 a.m. Monday, CET.

Last year: Power won at the track for the third time in four years.

Last week: Power won at the Milwaukee Mile for his third win of the year.

Next race: MAVTV 500, Aug. 30, Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, Calif.

Online: indycar.com

OTHER RACES

TUDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP: Oak Tree Grand Prix at Virginia International Raceway, Danville, Va. **TV:** AFN-Xtra, delayed, 6 a.m. Monday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday JKT.

Online: imsa.com

ARCA RACING SERIES: Herr's Live with Flavor 200, Madison International Speedway, Oregon, Wis.

Online: arcaracing.com

— The Associated Press

NBA/LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

A person with knowledge of the situation told *The Associated Press* that the Minnesota Timberwolves will receive the Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young as part of the deal that will send Kevin Love to the Cleveland Cavaliers. The person requested anonymity because an official announcement has not been made. The Sixers will receive guard Alex Shved and forward Luc Mbah a Moute from the Timberwolves, as well as Miami's No. 1 pick next year.

Timberwolves get 76ers' Young as part of Love trade

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Timberwolves secured the final piece they wanted in a blockbuster Kevin Love trade.

A person with knowledge of the situation told *The Associated Press* that the Timberwolves will receive Philadelphia 76ers power forward Thaddeus Young as part of the deal that will send Love to the Cleveland Cavaliers. The person requested anonymity because an official announcement has not been made.

The Wolves agreed weeks ago to send Love to Cleveland, where he will team up with LeBron James and Kyrie Irving to make the Cavaliers an instant favorite in the Eastern Conference. The Cavs agreed to send No. 1 overall draft pick Andrew Wiggins, former No. 1 pick Anthony Bennett and a 2015 No. 1 draft choice they obtained from Miami to Minnesota to land Love, but Wolves President Flip Saunders and GM Matt Newton immediately went to work to try to get the 76ers involved in the deal as well.

The Wolves have wanted the 26-year-old Young to help them replace Love in the starting lineup, and the teams came to an agreement on Thursday to make that happen. Young averaged a career-high 17.9 points last season and gives the Wolves another

athletic player to put around point guard Ricky Rubio. He also gives the young team another veteran presence in the locker room.

Young had two years and more than \$19 million left on his contract, but he can become a free agent after next season if he chooses.

The rebuilding Sixers will get guard Alex Shved and forward Luc Mbah a Moute from the Timberwolves and Miami's No. 1 pick next year from the Cavaliers in the deal, which will not be officially announced until Saturday, when Wiggins becomes eligible to be traded.

A seldom-used NBA rule prevents any rookie from being traded for 30 days after he signs his rookie contract.

Shved and Mbah a Moute are entering the final year of their contracts, which gives the 76ers sought-after financial flexibility going forward as GM Sam Hinkie continues to gut the roster in an effort to build a long-term winner over the next five years. Mbah a Moute also has a close relationship with Sixers rookie Joel Embiid and could provide a nice mentor for the young big man while he sits out the season because of a foot injury.

The Timberwolves were expected to introduce Young, Wiggins and Bennett on Tuesday at the Minnesota State Fair.

Without Mo'ne on mound, Philly falls to Chicago

By JOHN KERIS

The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Chicago manager Darold Butler has a message for the Windy City:

"Keep cheering," Butler said Thursday night after the biggest victory of his baseball career. "We hear you. It's working. Make it louder."



Davis

Joshua Houston hit a clutch two-run single, reliever Cameron Bufford pitched a tense scoreless sixth inning, and Jackie Robinson

West Little League held off gritty Philadelphia 6-5 in a matchup of inner-city teams at the Little League World Series.

The loss eliminated Philadelphia and prevented star pitcher Mo'ne Davis from getting one last shot to put another stamp on what had become her personal playground.

Don't worry about her, though. Philadelphia manager Alex Rice certainly isn't.

"The world's her oyster, right?" an emotional Rice said after the loss. "Mo'ne will figure out her future, and it's going to be terrific. She's going to dictate what it is. Good for her."

Davis, just the 18th girl to play in the Little League World Series and the only one to win a game on the mound, played first base the first two innings against Chicago, was taken out and re-entered the game at third base in the bottom of the fifth.

The Jackie Robinson West team, comprised of all black players, is making its first appearance in 31 years in the Little League World Series. The victory sends the Great Lakes champs into the U.S. title game on Saturday against Las Vegas.

Las Vegas, the West champions, beat Philly 8-1 on Wednesday and humbled Chicago 13-2 in four innings in a mercy-rule game last Sunday behind five homers, including a grand slam by Brad Stone and two home runs from Austin Kryszczuk.

"It (the lopsided loss) woke us up," Butler said. "The kids have been more focused and today's game showed how focused we were. We had a lot of adversity. They find a way to get it done, and it's always a new guy."

Bufford walked Scott Bandura to lead off the top of the sixth, putting the tying run at first. He then struck out Jahli Hendricks, induced Jared Sprague-Lott to hit into a fielder's choice and walked dangerous Zion Spearman before



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Chicago's DJ Butler, left, celebrates with Pierce Jones after Jones caught the final out of a 6-5 win over Philadelphia in an elimination game Thursday at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa. Chicago faces Las Vegas in the U.S. title game.

getting Jack Rice on a fly to right to end it.

Philly trailed 6-2 after two innings but clawed back within a run on Tai Cummings' long home run to center leading off the fifth.

The grassy hill beyond the outfield fences at Howard J. Lamade Stadium was jammed Wednesday night with 34,128 fans who craned their necks to see every pitch from Davis.

But with the star right-hander playing the field and not eligible to pitch until Saturday, attendance dipped to 21,119 against Chicago.

The 5-foot-4 Davis and her teammates gave the Taneey Youth Baseball Association Little League in Philadelphia an amazing dose of publicity.

In her first outing, Davis pitched a two-hit shutout to become the first girl to win a game

in the Little League World Series. In splitting her two starts, Davis pitched 8 1/3 innings, allowed eight hits and three earned runs, and struck out 14 with only one walk. She also threw a three-hit shutout to lead Taneey to an 8-0 victory over Delaware in the Mid-Atlantic Regional championship game.

Small wonder that during batting practice Wednesday night on the West Coast the Los Angeles Dodgers streamed the Little League telecast on two giant video boards.

The glare of the spotlight on Davis and her teammates had grown exponentially as the Little League World Series unfolded. Television ratings were up 143 percent Wednesday night from the corresponding game last year and this week she became the first Little Leaguer to grace the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	73	52	584		
New York	64	61	512	9	
Toronto	65	62	512	9	
Tampa Bay	56	69	468	12	
Boston	56	71	441	18	

	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	70	56	556	—	
Detroit	68	57	544	1½	
Cleveland	64	62	508	6	
Chicago	59	68	465	11½	
Minnesota	54	70	444	14	

	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	72	50	603	—	
Oakland	74	52	587	2	
Seattle	68	58	540	6	
Houston	64	62	422	23	
Texas	49	77	389	27	

National League

	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	72	53	579	—	
Atlanta	61	61	523	7	
Miami	63	62	500	10	
New York	60	68	469	14	
Philadelphia	54	71	441	17½	

	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	69	57	559	—	
St. Louis	69	57	548	1½	
Cincinnati	61	67	477	10½	
Chicago	58	72	433	16	

	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	72	57	558	—	
San Francisco	59	67	542	3½	
San Diego	59	67	468	11½	
Arizona	54	75	468	18½	
Colorado	50	76	397	20½	

Wednesday's games

Detroit 4, Tampa Bay 0
L.A. Angels 8, Boston 3
Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 3
Cleveland 5, Minnesota 4
Texas 5, Miami 4
Philadelphia 4, Seattle 3
Toronto 9, Milwaukee 5
N.Y. Mets 8, Oakland 5
Washington 3, Arizona 2
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 2
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 3
San Francisco 8, Chicago Cubs 3
Colorado 4, Kansas City 3
San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 1

Thursday's games

N.Y. Yankees 3, Houston 0
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 1
Tampa Bay 1, Detroit 0
L.A. Angels 2, Boston 0
Washington 1, Arizona 0
Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 1
Comp. of Sunday games
San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 3
Atlanta 6, Cincinnati 0
L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 1

Friday's games

Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Yankees
Houston at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Toronto
Seattle at Detroit
A.A. Angels at Texas
Detroit at Minnesota
L.A. Angels at Baltimore
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Washington
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Cincinnati
Miami at Colorado
San Diego at Arizona
N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers

Saturday's games

Chicago White Sox (Carroll 5-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Farnsworth 1-2) at Detroit (Buehrle 11-8)
Detroit (Harmon 1-0) at Minnesota (Pino 1-5)
Cincinnati (McHugh 12-6) at Boston (Workman 1-7)
Houston (Cabrera 12-9) at Cleveland (Salazar 4-6)
Houston (Guthrie 9-10) at Texas (Tejeda 4-7)
Detroit (Verlander 10-11) at Oakland (Headley 4-4), SF—Lusuzuki
L.A. Angels (CWilson 10-8) at Atlanta (Barnes 11-7) at Chicago Cubs (Lincecum 10-8) at San Francisco (Zimmerman 8-9)
St. Louis (Molina 8-9) at Philadelphia (Buchanan 5-7)
Atlanta (Santana 13-6) at Cincinnati (Leake 9-1)
Milwaukee (Volquez 10-7) at Milwaukee (Wepfer 15-2)
Cincinnati (Archer 12-9) at Colorado (Lyles 6-1)
Chicago (Cashner 2-6) at Arizona (Nuno 0-3)
N.Y. Mets (DeGrom 6-5) at L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 10-8)

Sunday's games

Chicago White Sox (Carroll 10-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Capanzio 1-2)
Detroit (Scherzer 4-8) at Cleveland (Bauer 4-7)
Cleveland (Scherzer 4-8) at Toronto (Hutchinson 8-11)
Detroit (Iwakuma 12-6) at Boston (Wright 1-1)
Detroit (Scherzer 14-4) at Minnesota (Kluber 10-8)
Kansas City (Liragans 10-5) at Texas (Henderson 10-8)
L.A. Angels (Weaver 13-7) at Oakland (Haram 10-7) at Cincinnati (Simon 12-6)
Washington (Gonzalez 7-9) at Philadelphia (Strasburg 10-10)
St. Louis (Molina 8-9) at Philadelphia (Buchanan 5-7)
Atlanta (Santana 13-6) at Cincinnati (Leake 9-1)
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KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Houston's Dexter Fowler, holding the remains of his broken bat, watches his fourth-inning double off New York Yankees starting pitcher Brandon McCarthy during Thursday's game in New York.

Thursday					Rays 1, Tigers 0					Dodgers 2, Padres 1					
Yankees 3, Astros 0					Tampa Bay					Los Angeles					
Houston	ab	r	h	bi	Detroit	ab	r	h	bi	San Diego	ab	r	h	bi	
Grissm	4	0	1	0	Kinsler	2	0	0	0	Solar	4	0	0	0	
Altuve	4	0	0	0	Trent	4	0	0	0	Alm	4	0	0	0	
Carier	4	0	0	0	McCar	4	0	0	0	Alm	4	0	0	0	
Fowler	4	0	1	0	Carr	0	0	0	0	Venae	0	0	0	0	
Krauss	3	0	1	0	Mtzn	3	0	0	0	Medica	3	0	0	0	
Singh	3	0	0	0	Mtzn	3	0	0	0	Rivera	3	0	0	0	
Corpin	3	0	0	0	Catins	3	0	0	0	Grath	2	0	1	0	
Minn	3	0	0	0	Mtzn	3	0	0	0	RLian	1	0	0	0	
Mtzn	3	0	0	0	Suarez	3	0	0	0	Amarr	3	0	0	0	
Totals	31	0	4	0	Ankn pr ss	0	0	0	0	Totals	29	1	3	1	
					Totals	30	0	4	0	Totals	29	1	3	1	
New York					Tampa Bay					San Diego					
DP—Houston 1. LOB—Houston 4, New York 3.	030	000	000—3		DP—Suarez (8), DP—Tampa Bay 1. LOB—	000	000	000—1		DP—Los Angeles 1. LOB—San Diego 1.	000	000	000—1		
York 3.	27	4	10	0	4. Suarez (8), DP—Tampa Bay 1. LOB—	000	000	000—1		4. Los Angeles 2, HR—J.Turner (15),	000	000	000—1		
Headley (4), SF—Lusuzuki	IP	H	R	BB	24), Suarez (9), 3B—Guyler (1).	000	000	000—1		SB—Venable (7), CS—D.Gordon (15),	000	000	000—1		
										Crawford (4), SF—Rojas.	000	000	000—1		
Houston					Detroit					San Diego					
DP—Houston 1. LOB—Houston 4, New York 3.	030	000	000—3		DP—L12-9	8	1	1	0	0	DP—San Diego 1. LOB—San Diego 1.	000	000	000—1	
York 3.	27	4	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4. Los Angeles 2, HR—J.Turner (15),	000	000	000—1	
Headley (4), SF—Lusuzuki	IP	H	R	BB	0	0	0	0	0	0	SB—Venable (7), CS—D.Gordon (15),	000	000	000—1	
					Cobb WS-2	7	2	0	0	0	Crawford (4), SF—Rojas.	000	000	000—1	
McCarthy WS-2	4	0	0	0											
Headley (4), SF—Lusuzuki	IP	H	R	BB											

MLB

Streaking Nats win 10th straight game

Pacheco's error gives Washington victory

By IAN QUILLEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Denard Span and the Washington Nationals ran off with another victory.

Span scored from second on third baseman Jordan Pacheco's throwing error in the ninth inning, and the Nationals stretched their winning streak to 10 games with a 1-0 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday.

"We just feel confident that somehow, some way we're going to find a way to inch off a victory," Span said.

Five of Washington's last six wins have come in its final at-bat of the game, and the win streak is tied for the franchise record. Kansas City is the only other team to win 10 consecutive games this year.

"It's not how you plan it," Nationals manager Matt Williams said.

Rafael Soriano (4-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the Nationals, who swept three-game series against the New York Mets and Pittsburgh Pirates before winning all four games of this series.

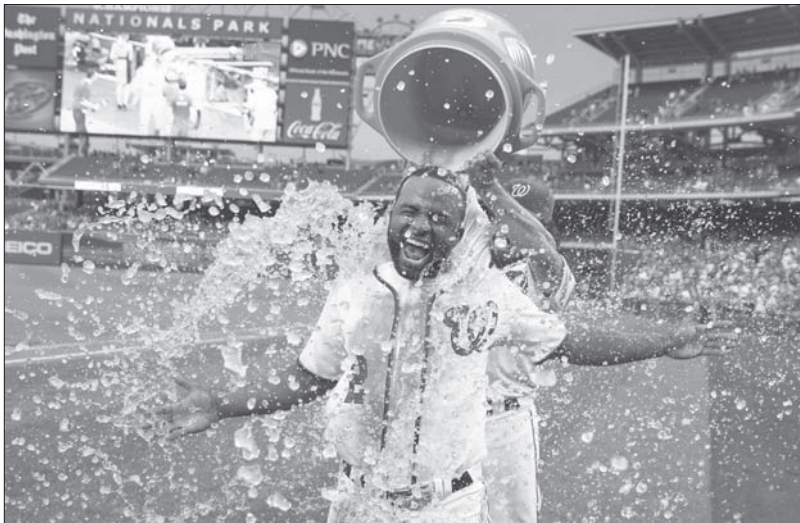
Washington's ninth hit was a one-out single for Span against Oliver Perez (2-3). Evan Marshall then came in and Span swiped second. But Anthony Rendon followed with a chopper to third.

Pacheco's throw bounced off the dirt and into the first-base camera well, and Span was awarded home.

"That what guys like me, speed guys, dream of," said Span, who set a career high with his 27th stolen base. "That's way more important than stealing two or three bags in the first five innings."

The Diamondbacks have lost six straight for the second time this season and dropped to 5-14 in August. Eight of Arizona's last 10 games have been decided by one run.

"I guess some losses are a little more dif-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

The Nationals' Anthony Rendon, rear, douses teammate Denard Span after Span scored the winning run on a throwing error by Arizona third baseman Jordan Pacheco during the ninth inning of Thursday's game in Washington. The Nationals defeated the Diamondbacks 1-0.

icult," first baseman Mark Trumbo said. "I think we battled as well as we could. Just didn't have too much offense to show for it."

The Nationals also struggled at the plate, going 0-for-13 with runners in scoring position.

Gio Gonzalez pitched seven innings for Washington in his longest outing since

July 26, and his first without an earned run since July 5. He allowed four hits and walked three while lowering his career ERA against Arizona to 1.33 in three starts.

"I just wanted to try and blend in with the rest of the rotation," said Gonzalez, who is 0-5 in his last eight starts. "You try not to stick out like a sore thumb."

Somehow, Wade Miley matched Gonzalez for 6½ innings despite allowing eight hits and walking a season-high six batters.

Miley retired Adam LaRoche three times to end an inning — twice on double plays — before walking him to load the bases with two out in the seventh. Matt Stites got Wilson Ramos to fly out to right to end the threat.

Roundup

Kershaw sharp as Dodgers get past Padres

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw struck out 10 in eight innings for Los Angeles, and Justin Turner hit a two-run homer as the Dodgers got past the Padres 2-1.

Kershaw (15-3) allowed one run and three hits while moving into a tie with Johnny Cueto, Willy Peralta and Adam Wainwright for the major league lead in victories.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner retired 12 in a row before giving up his first hit — a single by pitcher Tyson Ross — with two outs in the sixth.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 36th save.

Ross (11-12) held his own against Kershaw, allowing four hits in eight innings.

Cubs 2-3, Giants 1-5: Buster Posey went 4-for-4 with his 14th homer, leading Madison Bumgarner and visiting San Francisco to



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw moved into a four-way tie with Johnny Cueto, Willy Peralta and Adam Wainwright for the major league lead in victories with his win over the San Diego Padres on Thursday.

the win in the nightcap of an unusual doubleheader.

Pablo Sandoval added three hits and two RBIs as the Giants rebounded from a 2-1 loss earlier in the day in the resumption of their suspended game in the series opener.

The long day started with a rain delay of 1 hour, 57 minutes, and then the teams played the final 4½ innings of a game the Cubs thought they had won 2-0 on Tuesday night.

A short rainstorm caused a delay of more than 4½ hours after the grounds crew struggled with the tarp. The umpires said the field was unplayable and called it at 1:16 a.m.

But the Giants protested, and Major League Baseball ruled that the tarp had not been properly put away after its previous use.

Rays 1, Tigers 0: David Price allowed only a first-inning RBI triple to Brandon Guyer in his first

start against his former team, and Alex Cobb and host Tampa Bay beat Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Ben Zobrist reached on a throwing error by shortstop Eugenio Suarez and scored on Guyer's hit. Price then retired his final 23 batters, nine on strikeouts, to finish an eight-inning complete game.

Angels 2, Red Sox 0: Matt Shoemaker pitched one-hit ball into the eighth inning, helping Los Angeles complete a four-game sweep at Fenway Park.

Shoemaker (12-4) struck out nine before a two-out walk to Mookie Betts in the eighth ended his night. Will Middlebrooks' two-out double in the seventh was Boston's only hit in its fifth consecutive loss.

Yankees 3, Astros 0: Brandon McCarthy pitched a four-hit and New York avoided a three-game sweep, beating visiting Houston.

New York won for just the third time in 10 games. Chase Headley hit an early two-run double and the Yankees backed McCarthy with flawless fielding.

Braves 8, Reds 0: Justin Upton extended his hitting streak to 12 games with a bases-loaded single during his team's decisive third inning, and visiting Atlanta extended its offensive resurgence.

The Braves have won six of their last seven games, scoring at least seven runs four times. They remain seven games behind Washington in the NL East.

Twins 4, Indians 1: Kennys Vargas homered and sparked rallies with two other hits, leading host Minnesota past Corey Kluber and Cleveland.

Phil Hughes (14-8) struck out eight over seven innings to forge a four-way tie for the American League lead in victories, with Rick Porcello, Max Scherzer and Scott Kazmir.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Upgrade: Concussions aren't just about helmets

FROM BACK PAGE

concern regarding concussions hanging over every level of football, the race to develop safer helmets and other equipment has never been more intense. Even so, experts say it remains to be seen if new technology has made a dent in reducing concussions on the football field.

"It's very admirable that they're trying to get better," said Dr. Robert Cantu, a Boston-based neurosurgeon who specializes in sports concussions. "But with regards to concussions, it's a very complex issue ... There really isn't any helmet that has clearly been shown on the football field to be superior to other helmets."

The NCAA recently reached a settlement of a class-action lawsuit by agreeing to toughen return-to-play rules for players who receive head blows and create a \$70 million fund to pay for thousands of current and former athletes to undergo testing to determine whether they suffered brain trauma while playing football and other contact sports.

Concussions occur when the brain moves inside the skull from an impact or a whiplash effect, but it's still an injury that doctors are learning about. There's also debate about the best way to test for concussion factors or how to even identify when concussions occur.

The SpeedFlex's new design features a five-sided indentation on the crown of the helmet and a faceguard that both have some flexibility, which is supposed to allow some force to be absorbed and dispersed instead of going directly to the head.

There's also a revamped ratchet chinstrap system for faster adjustments and a quick release for the faceguard that could benefit medical staff seeking ac-

cess to the face in the event of an emergency.

Thad Ide, Riddell's senior vice president for research and product development, said his company isn't claiming that the SpeedFlex can help reduce concussions. But like Bielema, he believes progress is being made in regards to lessening head impacts.

"We'll list the medical researchers weigh in on the medical data around concussions, because that's kind of a moving target right now because of all the things that are being learned," Ide said. "But what we can do is try to reduce the forces of impact to the player's head. I think reducing those forces is unequivocally a good thing."

Cantu said current football helmet certification tests by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) measure only linear

impacts, which are direct blows. But new standards proposed over the summer would also mandate tests for rotational forces — or non-direct blows that could better reflect what actually happens on a football field.

NOCSAE's new standards are expected to go into effect sometime next year.

Mike Oliver, the executive director of NOCSAE, said helmet technology is improving but there are no simple answers.

"I think the helmet manufacturers are doing everything they can do to address these issues," Oliver said. "But they labor under the same restrictions that we do, which is until we understand more about the specifics of what causes a particular concussion, it's a little difficult."

AP Sports Writers Kurt Voigt in Fayetteville, Ark., and Howard Fendrich in Washington, D.C., contributed to this story.

‘There really isn't any helmet that has clearly been shown on the football field to be superior to other helmets.’

Dr. Robert Cantu
Boston neurosurgeon



ADAM LAU, KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL/AP

Tennessee offensive lineman Jashon Robertson, left, overpowers Tennessee linebacker Jalen Reeves-Maybin during an open practice Saturday at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, Tenn.

Vols defense faster, but lacking size, experience

By STEVE MEGARGE
The Associated Press

After years of playing catch-up with the rest of the Southeastern Conference, Tennessee's defense finally is getting up to speed.

A variety of position switches and the infusion of a talented recruiting class have given Tennessee a faster defense, addressing what had been a major weakness and perhaps making the Volunteers less susceptible to the big play. Now the chief worries are a lack of experience and size.

The inexperience is most apparent. Defensive coordinator John Jancek said Thursday that the defense could end up playing 11-13 newcomers.

But the Vols also lack size up front as they attempt to replace all four starting linemen from last season. Over the last week, head coach Butch Jones has discussed the need to solidify the defensive tackle position as the Vols gear up for their Aug. 31 season opener against Utah State.

"It's a great concern," Jones said. "And we have to get some individuals to step up. ... We all know that you have to stop the run first. We are talented, but we are also very young. It is a concern moving forward."

Tennessee faces the task of replacing Pittsburgh Steelers sixth-round draft pick Daniel McCullers, who was listed at 351 pounds last season. On this year's team, the only healthy defensive lineman with a listed weight of 300 or above is 306-pound freshman Michael Sawyers.

In an effort to improve the line's athleticism, Ten-

nessee moved Jordan Williams from end to tackle and shifted Curt Maggitt from linebacker to end. Maggitt was back at practice Thursday after missing nearly two weeks with an ankle injury. The change in emphasis should boost the pass rush of a Tennessee defense that had the fewest sacks in the SEC each of the last two years, but it also could make the Vols vulnerable against strong running attacks.

"We're definitely a lot more athletic, a lot of movement, a lot of good hand technique," Williams said. "We've definitely improved with that. We're a little bit undersized, but we're moving around a bit. It's good. We're definitely going to be making plays there."

Defensive line coach Steve Stripling has said he'd rather have athleticism than size from his tacklers if he can't have both. He likes the potential of this group. The problem is that none of Tennessee's tacklers have much of a track record.

Williams has started eight games over the last two seasons, but he's adjusting to a new position. Sophomore Danny O'Brien hasn't started a game yet. Junior Trevarris Saulsberry could provide depth, but he just aggravated a knee injury last week. Junior college transfer Owen Williams remains untested. Tennessee's lack of depth could create opportunities for freshmen Dimarya Mixon and Sawyers.

"Playing defensive tackle is the real world," Stripling said. "You've got to take on those 300-pound tacklers, so you've got to be physical and strong, and you've got to stay strong. You want as many of those guys to be able to play as possible. Obviously, we're looking for more depth."



GARETH PATTERSON/AP

Two Arkansas Razorback players walk onto the field holding their helmets before a practice on Saturday. Concussions are an increasing problem in college football and the NFL. Helmet companies are trying to improve on designs to reduce concussions.

NFL

Three-down linebackers rarity in today's NFL

Position increasingly specialized with rise in passing offenses

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Hall of Fame linebacker Andre Tippett had a simple answer for how often he left the field when the opponent had the ball.

"Never."

A slight exaggeration? Perhaps.

What's certain is that an NFL linebacker's role has changed since Tippett's retirement after the 1993 season ended a 12-year career, all with the New England Patriots, in which he sacked quarterbacks, shadowed receivers, tackled rushers and tried to catch his breath.

In today's NFL, few linebackers are as busy as Tippett. Rules that encourage passing have led teams to replace a big linebacker with a speedier one, or with a defensive back in nickel packages. Some linebackers are used exclusively to rush the passer. Others are used in running situations. And many linebackers are not as well-rounded coming into the league because they have less practice time in college, and even NCAA coaches are using a platoon system.

"That position has been specialized for several years now," New York Giants defensive coordinator Perry Fewell said.

Today's linebackers must tussle with big, fast tight ends. Jimmy Graham, Rob Gronkowski, Greg Olsen, Julius Thomas and Jason Witten all are at least 6-foot-5 and 250 pounds. And who can keep up with super-speedy Vernon Davis?

Through 2008, there was just one season in NFL history, 2005, when at least eight tight ends caught 60 passes or more. That's been done in each of the last five seasons.

In Tippett's 12 years, tight ends caught at least 60 passes just 28 times. In the past three years, 31 have done it.

"Everybody seems to have that special guy that, is he a tight end? Is he a wide receiver? Is he both?" Tennessee defensive coordinator Ray Horton said. "So you do need special people" to cover them.

Few teams have more than two linebackers who play all of the first three downs.

Last season, only 73 linebackers played more than two-thirds of the league-wide average of running and passing plays. Just 60 of them, less than two per team, were on the field for more than three quarters of



MIKE KULLEN/AP

In this Sept. 16, 1984 file photo, New England Patriots linebacker Andre Tippett, right, reaches out to haul down Seattle Seahawks quarterback Dave Krieg in Foxborough, Mass. The role of an NFL linebacker has changed since Tippett's retirement following the 1993 season. In Tippett's 12-year career — all with the New England Patriots — he sacked quarterbacks, shadowed receivers, and tackled rushers. Today, few linebackers find themselves as busy as Tippett, with teams increasingly substituting specialized players based on what is needed in particular game situations.

that amount.

"You look at those Super Bowl years (the 2001, 2003 and 2004 seasons) that we won, we won with the 3-4 defense and most of those guys pretty much stayed on the field," said Tippett, the Patriots' director of community affairs and franchise leader with 100 sacks. "It's a badge of honor."

New England coach Bill Belichick recalls having Lawrence Taylor, Carl Banks, Pepper Johnson and Harry Carson in the 1980s when he was linebackers coach and defensive coordinator for the Giants.

"I can't remember too many times when (they) were standing behind me," Belichick said, "but it wasn't very often."

Just like the freedom defenders once had to hit quarterbacks and receivers, those days are gone. And this season officials are cracking down on contact with receivers.

The three-down linebacker "is a dying breed," said Gunther Cunningham, senior coaching assistant with the Detroit Lions who has spent the past 32 seasons as an NFL head coach or assistant.

One of his linebackers, Stephen Tulloch, rarely comes off the field.

"It takes a lot of work in the offseason, taking care of your body to stop the run and defend the pass," Tulloch said, "and a lot of work in season watching film so you can help the team in every situation."

A run-stopping linebacker usually is replaced by a defensive back on third down, especially with the increase in four-receiver formations.

The days of smashmouth football when Dick Butkus patrolled the middle are long gone.

Tippett wouldn't have liked that at all.

He has worked in the Patriots' front office since retiring and has teased players in the locker room.

"I say, 'You know, I never came off the field. You know that, don't you?'" Tippett said. "Then they'll start laughing a little bit."



MATT ROHRKE/AP

The Eagles' Brent Celek, center, is hit by the Steelers' Ryan Shazier, left, and Lawrence Timmons on Thursday in Philadelphia.

Eagles' 'O' returns to form

By ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — This was more like last year's Eagles.

Nick Foles threw one touchdown pass and led Philadelphia's starting offense to three first-half scores in a 31-21 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Thursday night.

"I feel we're improving every week," Foles said. "We have to keep moving forward."

Steelers running backs Le'Veon Bell and LeGarrette Blount both played one day after they were arrested for marijuana possession shortly before Pittsburgh (1-2) traveled to Philadelphia (1-2).

"I'm sorry to be a distraction to the team but I'm only going to answer football questions now," Bell said.

Eagles All-Pro running back LeSean McCoy left

the game with a right thumb injury after a 22-yard TD catch gave Philadelphia a 7-0 lead. X-rays on McCoy's thumb were negative, but he didn't return. McCoy showed no effects of a toe injury that forced him to miss one practice earlier in the week.

"It's no big deal," Eagles coach Chip Kelly said.

The Eagles' first-team offense had only one touchdown on six drives in road losses to Chicago and New England. But they looked more like the unit that set several franchise records in 2013.

"We have a lot we can improve on," Foles said. "It's important not to get complacent."

Foles was 19-for-29 for 179 yards and threw one interception. He led the offense to 17 points and 251 total yards before giving way to Mark Sanchez in the third quarter. Starting wide receivers Jeremy Maclin and Riley Cooper played their first game together, combining for nine catches for 68 yards.

SPORTS



Accumulating assets

Timberwolves get Young as part of trade for Love | **NBA, Page 27**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Upgrade?

No one knows for certain if new SpeedFlex helmet will reduce head injuries

BY DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

Arkansas coach Bret Bielema proudly posted a message on Twitter last spring that featured the Razorbacks' new helmets — a futuristic design by Riddell called the SpeedFlex that is supposed to be the latest in head protection.

A vocal proponent of player safety, Bielema is happy to be a part of the cutting edge. But it's a bit of a leap of faith. He has no proof that the SpeedFlex — or any other helmet — can reduce the risk of a devastating head injury.

"It's just like everything else — everything advances and you get better at it," Bielema said at a recent Arkansas practice. "I think our kids really like the way (the helmets) feel. They feel snug. They feel fit. So I think that's a step in the right direction."

With lawsuits and

SEE UPGRADE ON PAGE 30

Arkansas guard Brey Cook wears a Riddell SpeedFlex helmet during practice in Fayetteville, Ark. With lawsuits and concern regarding concussions hanging over every level of football, the race to develop safer helmets and other equipment has never been more intense.

GARETH PATTERSON/AP



Nationals stretch winning streak to 10 games

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Mo'ne, Philadelphia sent packing by Chicago

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